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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR'S HANDBOOK

REV. CHARLES NEIL M. A.

THE

CHRISTIAN VISITOR'S HANDBOOK.

Passages of Scripture with Descriptive Titles and Suggestive Remarks:

ALSO

TOPICS FOR PRAYER

WITH REFERENCES TO COLLECTS,

Suitable for Cases usually met with in District Visiting.

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED AND CLASSIFIED

BY

REV. CHARLES NEIL, M.A.

INCUMBENT OF ST. MATTHIAS', POPLAR;

AUTHOR OF

"THE EXPOSITOR'S COMMENTARY ON ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS," ETC.

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."—ISAIAH xl. 1.

"Thy words have darted hope into my soul,
And comfort dawns upon me."

LONDON:

JAMES NISBET & CO., 21 BERNERS STREET.

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PREFACE.

"WHEN I want a book," remarked an indefatigable worker, "I make one for myself." This is just what the writer of this book has done. He found the absolute need of a Christian Visitor's Handbook, and as none of a sufficiently definite and comprehensive character could be met with, he gradually collected material, from all sources,* and the following pages formed an appendix to his own visiting Bible. It has been suggested to him that those like himself who feel the same want, but who, unlike himself, have not the same time or facilities, might for the present, at least, find the following pages useful as a ready reference-guide, and as forming the basis for their own selections.

The book is arranged alphabetically, as it is intended for practical purposes, and to be bound up with or placed in one's visiting Bible.

A classified list, moreover, is given, which will enable a reader to take a diagnosis of cases, and is especially adapted for home study.

One very special feature of the book is the naming of the selected Scripture Passages. No little time and thought have been bestowed upon these titles, so that they may serve a double purpose—namely, to indicate the subject, as well as to suggest topics of conversation. The Visitor is thus enabled not only to select from the selected passages the most appropriate to the special case, but also has a number of topics incidentally, if necessary, to touch upon.

A few choice sayings, chiefly of an illustrative and pleasing character, are added, to further help the Visitor to commence a conversation, to lead it into a right direction, and to give point to his remarks.

A few topics are suggested, and also references to Collects from the Book of Common Prayer are added, in order to assist the Visitor in engaging in prayer with due regard to the wants of the case visited.

The writer's object in publishing this manual would be frustrated if it should in the least lead to visiting in a mechanical or perfunctory manner.

Love to Christ, zeal for souls, deep sympathy with suffering and the wants of others, are the chief qualifications for success in Christian visiting. But, as those who wish to give full proof of their ministry, we cannot afford to dispense with practical helps.

The great want of most parishes is a band of intelligent as well as earnest Christian workers. May this handbook be a means, however small, of helping and training such!

ST. MATTHIAS PARSONAGE, POPLAR,
October 23, 1882.

* "The Priest's Prayer Book," "Visitatio Infirmorum," "Pastor in Parochiâ," "The Cure of Souls," "A Manual of Pastoral Visitation," I have *always* found helpful, even when, in the case of the two former, I have been *compelled widely to differ from* many views expressed by the authors.

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A.

THE UNREGENERATE

(or practically so).

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THE

CHRISTIAN VISITOR'S HANDBOOK.

1. Accident, After an.

Deut. xxxii. 39 .
1 Sam. ii. 6 . .
Job v. 18. . .
} God the Author of good and evil.

Isa. l. 5–11 . . . Messiah's sufferings and supports.
Matt. viii. 1–13 . Miracles of healing.
1 Pet. v. 5–11 . { Exhortation to humility, submission, sobriety, and vigilance.

PSALMS—

vi. . . . . O Lord, rebuke me not.
xiii. . . . . How long wilt Thou?
cii. . . . . Hear my prayer, O Lord.
cxxi. . . . I will lift up mine eyes.
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TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Grace not to put off repentance, For.
Medicine, For a blessing on the use of.
Pain and sorrow, For acceptance of.
Pardon should death be imminent, For.
Recovery, For.
Relief from pain, For.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph. 3, 4.
S. in Lent 2.
S. after Trin. 4, 8, 15, 20.

Every cloud has a silver lining.
Believe and fear not! in the blackest cloud
A sunbeam hides; and from the deepest pang
Some hidden mercy may a God declare.
—R. Montgomery.

A man about to go aboard a ship for France broke his legs, and it pleased Providence so to order it that the ship he should have gone in was lost with all hands.

2. Aged and Infirm.

Isa. xl. 1–11 . .	Comfort ye, my people.
Mal. iii. 16–18 . .	Believers, God's jewels.
Matt. vi. 24–34.	Thorough devotedness of service: Entire trustfulness to God our heavenly Father.
„ xvii. 1–9.	The Transfiguration: The deplorable state of a Christian who is cold and insensible with regard to heaven.
„ xix. 27–30 .	The hundredfold recompense.
Luke ii. 25–35	The Song of Simeon: The knowledge of salvation precious in the hour of death.
„ xii. 35–40 .	The watchful servant and his reward.
„ xxi. 25–33	The state of the world at Christ's return.
Rom. viii. 8–14	The renewed spirit the pledge of the body's rising.
„ „ 31–39	A review of the blessedness of the life of the justified, with a triumphant outburst of praise.
Phil. iv. 4–7 .	The duty of a constant spirit of rejoicing.
Col. iii. 12–17 .	The cultivation of all the virtues of the new man.
1 Pet. iv. 7–11 .	Watchfulness and prayer in view of the end of all things.
1 John i. . . .	Communion with God through Christ.
Rev. xix. 5–9 .	The celebrating the coming glorification of the Bride, the Lamb's wife.
„ xxi. 1–7 . „ xxii. 1–7 .	The felicity of heaven.

PSALMS—

xv. . . . { Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle?
xvi. . . . Preserve me, O God.
xxiv. . . . The earth is the Lord's.
xxxi. . . . In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
xxxvii. . . Fret not thyself because of evil doers.
lxxi. . . . In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
lxxxiv. . . How amiable are Thy tabernacles.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. in Adv. 1.
S. in Epiph. 3, 4.
S. in Lent. 2.

Winter, which strips the leaves from around us, makes us see the distant regions they formerly concealed; so does old age rob us of our enjoyments, only to enlarge the prospect of eternity before us.—*Richter.*

Time has laid his hand upon my heart, gently, not smiting it; but as a harper lays his open palm upon his harp, to deaden its vibrations.—*Longfellow.*

Each departed friend is a magnet that attracts us to the next world, and the old man lives among graves.—*Richter.*

"I am going home as fast as I can, as every honest man ought to do when his day's work is over; and I bless God I have a good home to go to."—*An Aged Christian.*

"I am on the bright side of seventy," said an aged man of God; "the bright side, because nearer to everlasting glory."—"Nature fails," said another, "but I am happy."—"My work is done," said the Countess of Huntingdon, when eighty-four years old; "I have nothing to do but to go to my Father."—To a humble Christian it was remarked, "I fear you are near another world." "Fear it, sir," he replied; "I know I am; but, blessed be the Lord! I do not fear it: I hope it."

"I can scarcely understand why my life is spared so

long, except it be to show that a man can be as happy without a fortune as with one." And soon after, when his only surviving daughter died, he writes, "I have often heard that sailors on a voyage will drink 'Friends astern!' till they are half-way over, then 'Friends ahead!' With me it has been 'Friends ahead!' this long time."—*Wilberforce.*

3. Anxious, The. (*See* PENITENT, THE.)

Matt. xi. 25, 26 . The revelation made to babes.
„ xii. 20 . { Christ's tender consideration of the weak.
Rev. xxii. 17 . . The freeness of the Gospel invitation.

Our altar is four-square: it has a face each way, and it has a horn upon each corner, that the manslayer who flees for safety may touch it; and he who touches that altar touches it for safety.

A physician who was anxious about his soul asked a believing patient of his how he should find peace. His patient replied, "Doctor, I have felt that I could *do nothing*, and I have put my case in your hand: I am *trusting in you.* This is exactly what every poor sinner must do in the Lord Jesus." He saw the simplicity of the way, and soon found peace in Christ.

4. Awakened, The Recently.

Gen. xix. 12–19 { Lot's flight from Sodom: Beware of lingering, backward looks.
1 Tim. vi. 11–16 . Fight the good fight of faith.

He who looks upon Christ through frames and feelings is like one who sees the sun on water, which quivers and moves as the water moves; but he that looks upon Him in the glass of His word by faith, sees Him ever the *same.*—*Nottidge.*

A Christian, when he makes a good profession, should be sure to make his profession good.

The whole complexion of a negro is less noticed than a single stain on the features of a white countenance.

The servants of the Lord should be as bold for their Master as the Devil's servants are for theirs.

5. Backsliders.

2 Sam. xii. 1–14	David's fall and repentance.
Hosea vi., xiv.	Israel exhorted to return—Mercy calling.
Matt. xxvi. 69–75	Repentance of Peter.
Heb. x. 26–31	Cautions against apostasy.
2 Pet. ii. 20, 21	God's just anger.
Psalm xxxii.	Blessed is he whose transgression.

As the worst travelling is when the road is frozen after a thaw, so those are frequently the most hardened who have had some convictions—who have had some knowledge of the Gospel, and some religious affection—and have then relapsed into their natural hardheartedness.—*Arrowsmith.*

If by any mischance the vestal fires of Greece were allowed to go out, they could only be rekindled by the rays of the sun. So with grace in the soul of man: if it should expire, nothing but the rays of the Sun of Righteousness can rekindle it.

6. Bed-ridden, The. (*See* Aged and Infirm.)

7. Blind Person, A.

Luke xviii. 35–43	The cure of blind Bartimeus.
Acts vii. 55–60	The spiritual vision of the martyr Stephen.
2 Cor. iv. 1–6	Spiritual darkness.
Eph. v. 1–14	Children of the light.

1 John i. . . . . Communion with God through Christ.
„ iii. 1–3 . The transforming vision of Christ in the future state.

PSALMS—
xvii. . . . Hear the right, O Lord.
xix. . . . . The heavens declare the glory of God.
xxvii. . . The Lord is my light and my salvation.
cxlvi. . . . Praise ye the Lord.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—
S. after Epiph. 3.
St. John the Evangelist's Day.
Even. Prayer, 3.

"I could never see until I was blind," was the remark of one to whom the loss of sight had proved a means of spiritual blessing.

They also serve who only stand and wait.

8. Careless or Ignorant Person. (*See* 65.)

Job xxxiii. 14–30 . The unperceived voice: the unprofitableness of sin in this life an argument for repentance.
Isa. i. 16–20 . . A call to repentance: promise of forgiveness.
„ xxx. 18–21 . God waiting to be gracious.
„ xlviii. 16–19 . God's tender concern for His people.
Jer. vii. 3–15 . . The vain security of unimproved Church privileges.
„ ix. 13–16 . . Judgments awaiting stubborn sinners.
„ xvii. 5–13 . . The curse of trust in man, and the blessedness of trust in God.
Lam. iii. 39–50 . Confession of sin.
Ezek. vii. 1–9 . . The approaching end of God's forbearance.
Hos. iv. 1–7 . . The ill consequences of ignorance.
„ xiv. . . . Call to repentance: Promise of complete redemption.

Matt. xii. 33–37 . Judgment to extend to our words.
„ xiii. 18–23 . The parable of the Sower, or the necessity of a right state of heart to receive the Word.
„ xxiv. 32-42 . The world's unpreparedness at Christ's second coming.
„ xxv. 1–13 . The ten virgins, or the need of preparedness.
Luke xiii. 6–9 . The barren fig-tree, or the doom of the unfruitful professor.
Gal. v. 16–24 . Walking in the flesh contrasted with walking in the Spirit.
Eph. v. 5–14 . The fatal consequences of indulged sin, with an earnest exhortation to the careless.
Heb. x. 24–31 . The punishment in store for wilful sinners under the Gospel.
2 Pet. ii. 20, 21 . Apostates in a worse case than ever.
Jude 17–21 . . The extreme folly and impiety of mocking at religion contrasted with the wisdom of building upon a sure foundation.

PSALMS—

iii. . . . Lord, how are they increased that trouble me!
xvi. . . . Preserve me, O God.
xxiii. . . The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
xxv. . . Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
xxvii. . . The Lord is my light and my salvation.
xxviii. . . Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord, my rock.
xxxi. 1–6. . In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
xxxix. 1–8 . I said, I will take heed to my ways.
lvii. . . . Be merciful unto me, O God.
lxxvii. 1–11 . I cried unto God with my voice.
lxxxvi. 1–12 . Bow down Thine ear, O Lord.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Backsliding, Against.
Coming to Christ, For.
Conversion, For.
Grace to perfect repentance, For.
Salvation (Way of), that he neglect not.
Sins, For the discovery of.

The saddest road to hell is that which is under the pulpit, past the Bible, and through the midst of warnings and invitations.—*Ryle.*

To-day is a day of mercy: to-morrow may be a day of doom.

An Indian was discovered asleep floating in his canoe above the falls of Niagara. His sleep was heavy, and no efforts or calls could arouse him. The current swept him against a projecting rock, which set his canoe whirling about in the stream. "He is safe!" cried the spectators; but even this did not rouse him. Onward sped the canoe, till the dreadful noise of the fall aroused the Indian. It was too late for escape or effort. His canoe plunged into the yawning gulf, and his soul sank into eternity.

9. Sick Child.

Matt. ii. 13–18.	The slaughter of the innocents.
„ x. 28–33.	God's government and disposal of the events which befall us, and the duty of witnessing a good confession.
„ xi. 25–32	The Gospel revealed to babes.
„ xviii. 2–10	Christ's care of little children.
„ xxvi. 36–42.	Christ's agony in Gethsemane.
„ xxvii. 27–38	The indignities offered to our Lord.
Mark ix. 43–50	An offending member.
„ xiii. 28–37	The duty of watchfulness.
Luke ii. 8–14	The angel's message and song at the nativity.
„ „ 42–52	Jesus in the midst of the doctors.
„ xi. 1–10	The Christian taught to pray.

Luke xii. 27–32	Trustfulness in God's watchful providence: the safety of Christ's sheep.
„ xviii. 15-17	Jesus receiving and blessing little children.
„ xxiii. 39–43	The penitent thief on the cross.
John iii. 14–21.	The gospel of the kingdom: Salvation for believers, and condemnation for unbelievers.
„ x. 11–18.	The Good Shepherd.
Gal. iv. 1–7.	The childlike cry of the believer.
Eph. vi. 1–3 Col. iii. 20	Duties of children to their parents.
1 John iii. 1–8.	The dignity and holiness of God's children.
Rev. iv. 1–11	The vision of God's presence in heaven, and the everlasting worship of the Creator.
„ xiv. 1–5	The vision of the Lamb and His followers: In heaven, purity and happiness.
PSALMS—	
iv.	Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness.
viii.	O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name.
xiii.	How long wilt Thou forget me?
xvii. 1–8.	Hear the right, O Lord.
xx.	The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble.
xxiii.	The Lord is my Shepherd.
xxv. 1–9	Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
xxvii. 1, 7–14	The Lord is my light and my salvation.
xxxiv.	I will bless the Lord at all times.
lxxxvi. 1–11	Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, hear me.
cxii.	Praise ye the Lord.
cxix. 33–40	Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes.

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xxvii. 1, 7–14	The Lord is my light and my salvation.
xxxiv. . . .	I will bless the Lord at all times.
lxxxvi. 1–11 .	Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, hear me.
cxii. . . .	Praise ye the Lord.
cxix. 33–40	Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes.

Psa. cxix. 97–104 O how love I Thy law.
„ 105–112 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.
„ 169–176 Let my cry come near before Thee, O Lord.
cxxi. . . . I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.
cxxxi. . . . Lord, my heart is not haughty.
cxlii. . . . I cried unto the Lord with my voice.
cxliii. . . . Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear, &c.

Topics for Prayer—
Grace, For.
Pardon, For.
Relief and salvation, For.
Restoration to health, For.

Suitable Collects—
H. Innocent.
S. after Trin. 2.
St. Mich.

Children's Answers—
Eternity is the lifetime of the Almighty.—*Deaf and Dumb Inst.*
Reconciliation is second friendship.—*Irish School.*
Why a certain tree grew crooked? "Somebody trod upon it, I suppose, when it was a little fellow."
Forgiveness is the odour which flowers breathe when trampled upon.
What is *holiness?* To be clean inside.—*Irish Ragged Schools.*
What is *faith?* Doing God's will, and asking no questions.

10. Child, A Dying. (*See* 9.)

Matt. xviii. 1–10 . Christ's interest in little children.
John x. 11–16 . . The Good Shepherd.
1 Cor. i. 4–8 . Thanksgiving for the gifts and graces bestowed upon the Christians at Corinth.

Eph. ii. 19-22 . . The spiritual temple.
Rev. iv. 1-5 . . . The felicity of heaven.

When one of Martin Luther's children lay on her deathbed, the great man approached her and said, "My dear little daughter, my beloved Margaret, you would willingly remain with your earthly parents; but, if God calls you, you will go with your Heavenly Father." "Yes, dear father; it is as God pleases." "Dear little girl!" he exclaimed, "oh, how I love you! The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He then took the Bible, and read to her the passage, "Thy dead men shall live; together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust; for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." He then said, "My daughter, enter thou into thy resting-place in peace!" She turned her eyes towards him, and said, with touching simplicity, "Yes, father!"

11. Church, One unable to go to. (*See* 2.)

God is not tied to ordinances.

Live not so much upon the ordinances of God as upon the God of ordinances.

Debarred from public ordinances, the fruits of grace sometimes bloom with unusual beauty. Dr. Kane, finding a flower under the Humboldt glacier, was more affected by it, because it grew beneath the lip and cold bosom of the ice, than he would have been by the most gorgeous garden flower at home.

12. Communion, Before receiving Holy.

Matt. xxii. 8-14 . The king surveying his guests.
Luke xiv. 16-24 { The bidding the guests to the great supper.
John vi. 1-14 . . The feeding of the 5000.

John vi. 51–57 .	Christ the spiritual food of His people.
„ xv. 12–16 .	The duty of love.
1 Cor. xi. 23–32	The nature and end of the Lord's Supper, and the requisites to the worthy receiving of it.
Eph. ii. 13–18 .	Reconciliation to God, and fellowship with God by the blood of Jesus.
Col. i. 9–14 . .	Prayer for the spiritual growth and fruitfulness through the knowledge of Christ.
Heb. iv. 14–16 .	The encouragement derived from the character of Christ as our sympathetic high-priest in our approaches to God.
„ x. 9–14 .	Christ crucified the only and the perfect sacrifice.
1 Pet. v. 5–11 .	Exhortation to humility, submission, sobriety, and vigilance.
Rev. vii. 9–12 .	The worship and perfect happiness of the redeemed in heaven.

PSALMS—

xxiii. . . .	The Lord is my Shepherd.
xxiv. . . .	The earth is the Lord's.
xliii. . . .	Judge me, O God, and plead my cause.
cxvi. 1–9 .	I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Love to God, For.
Charity, For.
Faith, For.
God's good gifts of grace, For.
Grace to do God's will, For.
Self-examination and repentance, For.
Spiritual strength and life, For.
Thankful remembrance of Christ's death, For.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Trin. 6, 21.

A broken heart and broken bread agree well together. May we never separate them!—*J. H. Evans.*

This sacrament is a glass for the mind, a monument for the memory, a support of faith, a provocation to love, a quickening to obedience, and a signet seal of all the mercies of God in Christ Jesus.—*Arbp. Usher.*

13. Communion, After receiving Holy.

John vi. 53–58. . Christ the spiritual food of His people.
„ xv. 1–10 . . Christ the true vine.
Heb. ix. 11–15 . { Christ's perfect mediation and sacrifice.

PSALMS—
xxxiv. . . . I will bless the Lord.
ciii. . . . . Bless the Lord, O my soul.
cxlvi. . . . Praise ye the Lord.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—
Forgiveness, For.
Gratitude to God, For.
Sacrament to be a means of grace, For.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—
S. after Trin. 6, 17.
All Saints.

As the sunflower turns to its shining element, the sun, the same look when he sets as when he rises, so ought the believer to have his heart set towards his God and Saviour under all circumstances.

14. Convinced State, The.

Jer. iv. 3. . . . Break up the fallow ground.
Hosea vi. 1–4 . . Ephraim's goodness.
John vi. 5–14 . { Feeding of the five thousand.
„ „ 26, 66 . { Fruitless convictions.
„ xvi. 8, 9 . . Conviction, the work of the Spirit.

Acts xxiv. 24–27	Felix trembling [contr. Acts ii. 37; xvi. 30].
„ xxvi. 22–32	Almost a Christian.
2 Cor. v. 13 to „ vi. 2	The ministry of reconciliation: Duty of immediately closing with Gospel offers.

Conviction like an arrow—axe—hammer—ploughshare—north wind.

For want of deep convictions, how many are like Pliable, in the "Pilgrim's Progress," who went with Christian a little way! He was ravished with the glory of the prospect, but felt no burden upon his back; so, when they came to the Slough of Despond, he was at once disheartened and turned back again; yea, began to ridicule his former efforts.

15. Departed, For the Friends of the.

Lev. x. 1–3	Aaron's silence at the death of his sons.
2 Sam. xii. 18–23	The conduct of David on the death of his child: The restraint of exorbitant passion.
Job i. 18–22	The resignation of Job under the loss of his property and children.
Matt. xxvii. 57–66	The burial of Jesus.
John xi. 18–27	Jesus and Martha.
„ xiv. 1–6	Christ's notes of comfort to His disconsolate disciples at the thought of His leaving them.
Rom. vi. 8–11	The Christian risen in Christ to newness of life:
1 Cor. xv. 19–22	The resurrection of Christ the proof and guarantee of our own.
2 „ v. 1–8	A habitation in heaven.
Phil. iii. 20, 21	The Christian's deliverance by death: Believer's present privileges and future glory.
1 Thess. iv. 13–18 „ v. 1–11	Consolation with regard to those who die in the Lord, and exhortation to be ready to depart.

Rev. vii. 9–17 . { State of saints above contrasted with their former condition below.

„ xxi. 1–7 . { The heavenly Jerusalem and its perfect holiness, happiness, and glory.

„ „ 10–12

„ „ 21–27

„ xxii. 1–5 . { A description of the nature of heavenly happiness.

PSALMS—

ix. 1–4, 7–10 I will praise Thee, O Lord.
xxvii. . . The Lord is my light.
liv. . . . Save me, O God.
xc. . . . Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.
cii. . . . Hear my prayer, O Lord.
cxxi. . . . I will lift up mine eyes.
cxxx. . . Out of the depths have I cried.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Comfort, For.
Coming of Christ's kingdom, For the.
Death, For preparation for our own.
Departed (faithful), For thanksgiving for.
Resignation, For.
Spiritual Profit, For.

LOSS OF A CHILD.—"Ye have lost a child; nay, she is not lost to you, who is found in Christ; she is not away, but only sent before; like unto a star which, going out of sight, does not die and vanish, but shines in another hemisphere."

Tears often prove the telescope by which men see far into heaven.

"Who gathered these lilies?" asked the gardener, as he came into the garden and found some of his fairest and loveliest lilies cut. "I did," replied the master. Then the gardener held his peace.

16. Deranged, For one.

Matt. xvii. 14–21 . Healing of the lunatic child.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph. 6.
3rd C., Evening Prayer.

17. Despondency.

Gen. xvi. 6–13 . .	Hagar, or the all-seeing eye of God.
Judg. vi. 6–14 . .	The deliverance effected by Gideon.
1 Kings xix. 9–12 .	Elijah visited and reproved by God.
Isa. xxv. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 .	Songs of praise celebrating God's deliverance of His people.
„ xxxii. 1–4, 16–18 . .	Christ the believer's refuge: The work of righteousness, peace.
„ xxxv. 3–5, 10	Encouragement to the weak: Christians should rejoice by the way as well as at the end.
„ xl. 1–5, 28–31	The Lord's people comforted: The renewal of strength of those who wait on the Lord.
„ xlii. 1–4 . .	The bruised reed, or the gentleness of Christ.
„ xliii. 1–3 . .	God present with His people in the waters and fires of affliction.
„ xliv. 21–23 .	Return, for I have redeemed thee.
„ xlix. 8–10, 14–16 . .	Greatness of salvation: God will not forget His people.
„ liv. 11–14, 17	Peace the fruit of divine teaching: The security of the servants of God.
„ lv. 1–3, 6, 7 .	The freeness and blessedness of the Gospel: The unsatisfying nature of worldly enjoyments.
„ lvii. 15–19 .	A contrite spirit God's dwelling.
„ lxi. 1–3, 10, 11	All mourners in Zion comforted by the Lord and filled with joy.
Ezek. xxxvii. 1–14	Valley of dry bones, or renewed life.
Matt. xiv. 23–32	Disciples in the storm, or Christ our only safety in spiritual conflicts.
„ xv. 21–28 .	The Syro-Phœnician woman: God's deferring to answer those prayers which He intends at length to grant: Prayer heard the more through delay.

John xi. 33, 44 .	Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus.
„ xiv. 1–6 .	Notes of comfort to Christ's disconsolate disciples at the thought of His leaving them.
„ „ 6–18, 27	
„ xv. 12, 18–20 . .	The union between Christ and Christians: Consolation to the persecuted.
Rom. vii. 14–25 .	The conflict between the two natures.
2 Cor. i. 3–5 . .	Thanksgiving for Divine consolation and deliverance.
„ iv. 16–18.	The consideration of our future state as the remedy against afflictions.
„ v. 1–4 .	The Christian's assured prospect of glory his support in present troubles.
„ vii. 10, 11	A Christian's paradoxical experience.
Gal. iv. 1–7 . .	Being under the law and under grace.
Phil. iv. 4–7 . .	The duty of cultivating a rejoicing spirit.
Heb. ii. 14–18 .	The antidote to the fear of death: Christ's power to succour the tempted.
Rev. xxi. 1–4 .	A glimpse at the perfect happiness of the heavenly Jerusalem.

PSALMS—

ON REMEMBRANCE OF SIN.

xxv. . . .	Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
cxix. 169 .	Let my cry come near before Thee, O Lord.

WHEN HARASSED BY EVIL THOUGHTS.

xiii. . . .	How long wilt Thou forget me?
xxii. . . .	My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
lxxxvi. . .	Bow down Thine ear, O Lord.
lxxxviii. . .	O Lord, God of my salvation.
cxix. 25 . .	My soul cleaveth unto the dust.

WHEN TROUBLE UNEXPECTEDLY COMES.

xxxi. . . .	In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
xlii. . . .	As the hart panteth.

Psa. xliii. . . . Judge me, O God.
xlvi. . . . God is our refuge and strength.

When misrepresented.

xvii. . . . Hear the right, O Lord.
xxvii. . . . The Lord is my light.
xli. . . . Blessed is he that considereth.
lv. . . . Give ear to my prayer.
lvi. . . . Be merciful unto me, O God.

When Dejected.

xxiii. . . . The Lord is my Shepherd.
lxxvii. . . I cried unto God with my voice.

General Cases.

i. . . . . Blessed is the man.
v. 3–7 . . Give ear to my words, O Lord.
vii. 12–17 . O Lord my God, in Thee.
xi. 1–7 . . In the Lord put I my trust.
xxxvii. 1, 2, 10–16 } Fret not thyself because of evil-doers.
lxiv. 1–7 . Hear my voice, O God.
lxxiii. . . Truly God is good to Israel.
lxxxi. 9–16. Sing aloud unto God our strength.

Topics for Prayer—

Affections (For setting the) on things above.
Comfort, For.
„ „ from the Holy Scriptures.
Despair, Against.
Enlightenment, For.
Evil Thoughts, Against.
Fortitude, For.
Grace, For.
Hope, For.
Peace, For.
Resignation, For.
Satan's Assaults, For help against.
Trust in God's care, For.

Suitable Collects—

Septuagesima. | S. after Ascen.
S. after Trin. 3. | Colls. in Litany.

God may cast thee *down*, but He will not cast thee *off*.

I believe we often lose deep joys because we are afraid of deep sorrows.—*Evans.*

The rock does not shake or change, though the sea may ebb and flow about it.—*Rutherford.*

The spiritual man is not like a clod when thrown to the ground, but like an elastic ball which gains strength by its fall to rise again.

Like a ball that bounds
According to the force with which it was thrown,
So in affliction and violence, he that is wise,
The more he's cast down, will the higher rise.—*Nabb.*

18. Discontent.

1 Cor. x. 9–13 . Murmurers reproved.
Phil. iv. 10–13 . The art of contentment.

We are too apt to bite the rod that hurts us, and not mind the hand that sent it.

The cause of discontent is usually not in the circumstances, but in the individual; more of a disease than a misfortune.

I *feel* and grieve; but, by the grace of God, I *fret* at nothing.—*Wesley* in his 73rd year.

"I mourn but do not murmur," was the chastened expression of a Christian lady in the midst of deep distress and painful bereavement.

19. Dryness.

Deut. xviii. 13 . } Heartiness in serving God inculcated.
Josh. xxii. 5 . . }
Matt. v. 13–16 . { Christians the salt and light of the world.

We have sometimes seen a tree which looked, with its great spreading arms and massive trunk, as strong as other trees. The "storm beat upon it and it fell;" and then we wondered that it could stand so long when little but bark and outer fibre supported it, and within was nothing but decay.—*F. G. Pilkington.*

Exact and correct as the mathematician in his figures, but wanting in those joyous and stirring effects which are produced by the musician. Correct and beautiful as a statue, but wanting life.

20. Dying *see* below).

21. Dying Communicant, A.

John x. 1–10. .	The Good Shepherd.
„ xvii. 9–17, 20–26 .	Christ's prayer for His people.
1 John i. . . .	Communion with God through the knowledge of Christ.
Rev. vii. 2–12 .	God's preservation of His people, and the perfect happiness of the redeemed in heaven.

PSALMS—

xxiii. . . .	The Lord is my Shepherd.
lxx. . . .	Make haste, O God, to deliver me.
xc. . . .	Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Deliverance from Evil, For.
Faith (true) to the last, For.
Prayer on the Passion.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

2 C. at Morn. Prayer.	Palm S.
S. after Epiph. 6.	Asc. Day.

Blessed be God! though I change my place, I shall not change my company; for I have walked with God while living, and now I go to rest with God.—*Dr. Preston.*

The battle's fought, the battle's fought, and the victory is won: the victory is won for ever! I am going to bathe in an ocean of purity and benevolence and happiness to all eternity. Faith and patience, hold out!—*Dr. Payson.*

If He should slay me ten thousand times, ten thousand I'll trust. I feel, I feel, I believe in joy, and rejoice. I feed on manna. Oh, for arms to embrace Him! Oh, for a well-tuned harp!—*Rutherford.*

Oh, welcome Death! thou mayest well be reckoned among the treasures of the Christian. The great conflict is over; all is done. To live is Christ; but to die is gain.—*J. Hervey.*

Ah! is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend!—*Dr. Goodwin.*

At the time of his death, the sun was shining brilliantly into the room in which he was lying; and it is stated that his last words, addressed to his niece, were, "How grand those rays! they seem to beckon earth to heaven."—*Humboldt.*

Oh! how this soul of mine longs to be gone, like a bird of his cage, to the realms of bliss! Oh that some guardian angel might be commissioned, for I long to be absent from the body.—*John Fletcher.*

22. Dying Non-Communicant, A.

Luke xv. 1–10 . Christ's search after sinners.
1 Pet. v. 5–11 . Exhortation to humility, submission, sobriety, &c.
1 John ii. 1, 2 . Christ the Christian's propitiation and Advocate.

PSALMS—

lxxxviii. . . O Lord, God of my salvation.
xc. . . . . Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.
cii. . . . Hear my prayer, O Lord.
cxxx. . . . Out of the depths have I cried.
cxlii. . . . I have cried unto the Lord.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Contrition, For true.
Enlightenment, For.
Faith, For.
Hope, For.
Pardon, For.
Penitence, For.
Prayer, For the gift of.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

Septuag.
Ash Wed.
S. after Trin. 12, 24.

In that allegorical picture by an American artist which is to be found in most of our print-shop windows, we see a huge cross shown out in the form of a rock, standing in the midst of a wild and raging sea. One struggling form has already reached it, and clings to it with the strength of despair; another clutches at the hem of her robe in a last struggle for life. Christ is that rock. The floods of this world's grief and sorrow and pain may well-nigh overwhelm us, the seething waves of sin may lash wildly about us; but if we have found Him, He will be to us a sure refuge and rock of defence.—*F. G. Pilkington.*

23. Emigrants.

Deut. xxi. 6 . .	Moses's encouraging address to Israel.
Gen. xii. 1–3 . .	God's call to Abraham.
Heb. xi. 8–10 .	

24. Enquiry.

Acts viii. 26–40 .	Philip and the Eunuch.
,, ix. 1–12 .	Paul's conversion.
,, xvii. 10–12	The search of the Bereans.

A sick man asking for food is a sign of returning life. Therefore be hopeful.—A convalescent needs carefully watching and good nursing and right guidance. Therefore be wise and take counsel of those appointed to minister to spiritual wants.

A precocious child does not make real progress: he questions when he ought to be learning. Therefore walk by faith, not by sight. Wise children make foolish men.

All higher truth can only be known by experience.

Health requires plain food and a pure atmosphere and proper exercise. Therefore seek simple truths, and move in a circle of earnestness, and live up to your light.

25. Excitableness.

Isa. xxx. 15 . .	Christian quietness.
,, xxxii. 16, 17	The work of righteousness—peace.
Luke xxi. 19, &c.	Self-possession.

The sun, the most potent element in Nature, is the calmest, and can only be reflected truthfully in still water.

The direction of the needle of the compass can only be accurately discovered in a calm sea.

The writing on a flag cannot be read with accuracy and satisfaction when wildly beaten about by the wind: so God's messages of love and care cannot be rightly discerned in a troubled and agitated state.

26. Failure or Disappointment in Life.

Matt. vi. 19–21 .	Heavenly-mindedness.
Rom. viii. 30–39	Consolations of the justified.
Col. iii. 1–4 . .	Heavenly affections.

A noble heart, like the sun, showeth its greatest countenance in its lowest estate.

Creature comforts are often to the soul what suckers are to a tree; and God takes off those that these may thrive.

Dr. Doddridge's father, as eldest surviving branch of the family, was heir-at-law to a fortune of £2000 per annum, which was lost out of the family in the time of the civil wars. He was often urged by his friends to attempt to regain it; but through an apprehension of the great hazard and expense attending the attempt he chose to decline it. He sometimes acknowledged the good providence of God in so ordering events that the estate never came into his father's possession, as it would have descended to him at a time of life when, through the natural warmth and gaiety of his temper, it might have been his ruin.

I have no legacy to leave my children but pious poverty, God's blessing, and a father's prayers.—*Dean Prideaux.*

27. Faith.

Gen. xxii. 1–18 .	Abraham offering up his son.
Num. xxi. 4–9 .	The brazen serpent.
Mark v. 22–43 .	The woman who touched Jesus, and the faith of Jairus.
John iii. 31–36 .	The necessity of faith in Christ: Practical faith, the condition of life.
„ vi. 28, 29 . 67, 69 .	Peter's declaration of Christ being the Son of the living God.

Acts vii. 54–60 .	The unshaken faith of the proto-martyr.
Rom. x. 4–11 .	Faith, or the easy and universal accessibility of the Divine righteousness.
Gal. ii. 15–20 .	Faith, not works, the fundamental principle of the Gospel.
„ v. 3–6 . .	Faith, the one essential, characterizing, qualifying principle of the Christian life.
Phil. iii. 7–9 . .	The excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ: the righteousness of God by faith.
2 Tim. i. 9–13 .	Paul's unfaltering confidence in Christ.
Heb. vi. 1–3 . .	The fundamental principles of the Christian faith.
„ xi. 1, 2, 6–13, 39, 40 .	Definition and illustration of faith.
„ xii. 1, 2 . .	
1 John v. 1–5, 10–13	Faith a conquering principle.
Rev. xiv. 12, 13 .	The blessedness of those who die in the Lord.

Faith is the hand that lays hold on Christ. A child's hand may grasp as really, though not as firmly, as a man's. It is, however, taken possession of by faith, and not the faith that saves, just as when we receive medicine from the physician, it is the medicine that really heals, and not our receiving it.

28. Fallen, The.

Matt. ix. 10–13 .	Christ eating with sinners.
„ xxi. 28–32 .	The two sons.
Luke vii. 36–50 .	The woman which was a sinner.
„ xv. 1–10 .	Christ's search after sinners.
„ xviii. 9–14	The Pharisee and publican.
Rom. v. 6–8 . .	God's love for us when sinners.
Eph. v. 1–21 . .	Exhortation to flee uncleanness, &c.

29. Fever, In.

Isa. xliv. 2, 3 .	Promises of refreshment.
„ xxxv. 7 . .	
„ xliii. 19, 20 .	
Matt. viii. 1–13 .	Miracles of healing.
John iv. 46–54 .	The healing of the nobleman's son.
„ xiv. 1–14 .	Notes of comfort to the disconsolate disciples at the thought of Christ's leaving them.
Rom. viii. 18–23	Encouragements and consolations of the justified.
2 Cor. iv. 8–18 .	Paul's courage and joy under a complication of almost overwhelming difficulties.
„ vi. 1–10 .	

PSALMS—

vi.	O Lord, rebuke me not.
xiii. . . .	How long wilt Thou forget me?
xxii. . . .	My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
xxxix. . .	I said, I will take heed to my ways.
xlii. . . .	As the hart panteth after the water brooks.
lvii. . . .	Be merciful unto me, O God.
lxiii. . . .	O God, Thou art my God.
cii. . . .	Hear my prayer, O God.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph. 3.
S. in Lent 2.
S. after Trin. 8.

30. Gossiping.

Prov. xviii. 2, 6, 7, 31, 21, 23	Reproofs and warnings about gossiping and kindred sins.
„ xix. 28 . .	
„ xxiv. 2, 7 .	
„ xxv. 23 .	
„ xxvi. 20–22	
„ xxix. 11, 20	

Matt. xii. 36, 37. The judgment of our words.
Eph. iv. 29–32 . Religious conversation.
2 Thess. iii. 11, 12 } Busy-bodies counselled.
cf. 1 Tim. v. 13 }
Jas. i. 26 . . . } Sins of the tongue.
„ iii. . . . . }
1 Pet. iii. 8–12 . The duty of governing the tongue.

There would not be so many open mouths if there were not so many open ears.—*Bp. Hall.*

To speak no slander—no, nor listen to it.—*Tennyson.*

Gossiping is worse than picking a man's pocket.

Though a slanderer is insignificant, yet how ruinous and destructive may be his words!

Self-buzzing slander; silky moths
That eat an honest name.

31. Holiness.

Rom. vi. 12–22 . } Exhortation to holiness.
Eph. iv. 20–32 . }
Heb. xii. 9, 10, 14 { Holiness the end designed by God in His chastenings: The necessity of possessing it.
1 Pet. i. 15, 16 . Our imitating the holiness of God.

The cross once seen is the death to every vice.

Heaven is to be gained by a ladder, not by a leap; step by step, not at a bound.

32. Hope.

Tit. ii. 11–15 . . The blessed hope.
Heb. vi. 11–19 . The full assurance of hope.

A good hope, through grace, animates and gives life to action, and purifies as it goes; like the Highland stream that dashes from the rock, and purifies itself as it pursues its course to the ocean.—*Salter.*

The traveller, when taken in a storm, can stand patiently under a tree while it rains, because he hopes it is but a shower, and sees it clear up in one part of the heavens while it is dark in another. Providence, I am sure, is never so dark

and cloudy, but hope can see fair weather coming from the promise.—*S. Teacher's Treasury.*

The world dares say no more of its devices than *dum spiro spero* ("whilst I breathe, I hope"); but the children of God can add, by virtue of this loving hope, *dum expiro spero* ("whilst I expire, I hope").—*Arbp. Leighton.*

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey towards it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.—*Smiles.*

> Hope, like the glimmering taper's light,
> Adorns and cheers the way;
> And still, the darker grows the night,
> Emits a brighter ray.—*Goldsmith.*

Hope is like the cork to the net, which keeps the soul from sinking in despair; godly fear is like the lead to the net, which keeps it from floating in presumption.—*T. Watson.*

"Look up!" thundered the captain of a vessel, as his boy grew giddy while gazing from the topmast, "look up!" The boy looked up, and returned in safety. Young man, look up, and you will succeed. Never look down and despair. Leave dangers uncared for, and push on. If you falter, you lose. Do right, and trust in God.

"Hast thou hope?" they asked of John Knox, when he lay a-dying. He spoke nothing, but raised his finger and pointed upwards, and so died.—*Carlyle.*

33. Impenitent.

Gen. i. 26, 27 .	Man the image of God: Man's dignity.
Isa. lvii. 15 . .	The contrite heart, the Lord's dwelling.
Exek. xviii. . .	Individual responsibility:
„ xxxiii. . .	Calls to repentance.
Matt. xvi. 24–28	The incomparable value of the soul.
Mark ix. 42–50 .	The dreadful torments of the lost in hell.
Rom. iii. 9–20 .	The doctrine of human depravity.
Eph. iv. 20–24 .	The old and the new man.
Col. iii. 5–11 . .	The image of God restored.
Heb. xii. 14–29 .	Need of a meetness for heaven.
Matt. xxii. 11–14	

Jas. iv. 6–10 . .	God resists the proud.
1 Pet. v. 5, 6 . .	
2 Pet. iii. 1–9 *cf.* Rom. ii. 3, 4 .	The folly and danger of abusing God's patience and long-suffering with sinners.

Medicine is applied in vain so long as the arrow-head is in the wound.

It was an ancient proverb, "The feet of the avenging deities are shod with wool." Punishment is lame, but it will come in the end, though it be long on the way.

He that waits for repentance waits for what cannot be had so long as it is waited for. It is absurd for a man to wait for what he should himself be trying to do.

He that hath promised pardon to thy repentance hath not promised life till those repent.—*Quarles.*

34. Indolence.

Mark xiii. 27–37	Working and watching.
John xii. 35, 36 .	Walking while the light lasts.
Rom. xiii. 11–14	High time to awake.
1 Cor. vii. 29–31	The time is short: Remaining duties.
„ ix. 24–27 .	The race and the prize.
Eph. v. 16–19 .	Spiritual thrift.
„ vi. 14–18 .	The Christian armour.
Phil. ii. 12, 13 .	Man working, God enabling.
„ iii. 12–21 .	The duty of pressing forward.
Heb. iv. 1–11 .	Believers labouring for their reward.
„ vi. 10–12 *cf.* xi. 6 . . .	Slothful Christians admonished.

Christ did not redeem and save poor souls by sitting in majesty on His heavenly throne, but by hanging on the shameful cross.

Some men live in their good deeds, and like a beautiful insect, or a delicate moss preserved in a mass of golden aromatic amber, seem to lie embalmed in the honey of their worth.—*Guthrie.*

35. Injured, The.

Psalm xli. . . . { Blessed is he that considereth the poor.
„ lxiv. *esp.* 3, 4 Hear my voice, O God.
„ lxix. „ 12, 26 Save me, O God.

How many are there who profess to *forgive*, but cannot *forget*, an injury. Such are like persons who sweep the chamber, but leave the dust behind the door.—*Secker.*

When some of the courtiers of Philip the Good would have persuaded him to punish a prelate who had used him ill, he declined, saying, "It is a fine thing to have revenge in one's power; but it is a finer thing not to use it."

A man strikes me with a sword and inflicts a wound. Suppose, instead of binding up the wound, I am showing it to everybody, and after it has been bound up I am taking off the bandage constantly, and examining the depth of the wound, and making it fester, is there a person in the world who would not call me a fool? However, such a fool is he who, by dwelling upon little injuries or insults, causes them to agitate and influence his mind. How much better were it to put a bandage on the wound, and never look to it again.—*Simeon.*

36. Insensible, For one.

Acts xx. 7–12 . Eutychus restored to consciousness.

PSALMS—
xxxi. 10–20 For my life is spent with grief.
xxxviii. . . O Lord, rebuke me not.
lx. 1–5 . . O Lord, Thou hast cast us off.
lxv. 1–8 . . Praise waiteth for Thee, O God.
cv. . . . O give thanks unto the Lord.
cxxiii. . . Unto Thee I lift up mine eyes.

37. Intemperance.

Prov. xxiii. 20,21, 29–35
Isa. v. 11, 12, 22
Luke xxi. 34 . .
Gal. v. 21 . . . } Drunkenness pictured and condemned.

Prov. xxiii. 2, 3 . } Cautions against gluttony.
Rom. xiii. 13, 14 }

Dan. v. . . . . { Belshazzar's impious feast and his overthrow.

Those men who destroy a healthful constitution by intemperance and an irregular life, do as manifestly kill themselves as those who hang, or poison, or drown themselves.—*Sherlock.*

I never drink. I cannot do it on equal terms with others. It costs them only one day, but me three—the first in sinning, the second in suffering, and the third in repenting.—*Sterne.*

38. Languor.

Isa. xl. 28–31 . { The fainting believer strengthened for his work.

„ l. 5–11 . . } Messiah's sufferings and support.
„ liii. 2–12 . }

John xv. 1–11 . The true Vine.

„ xvi. 16–22 . { The Ascension, or sorrow followed by joy.

2 Cor. iv. 8–18 . { Paul's courage and joy under a complication of almost overwhelming difficulties.
„ vi. 2–10 . }

Eph. iii. 13–21 . { Paul's prayer for the Ephesians' growth in Christian strength and knowledge of divine love.

PSALMS—

vi. . . . . { O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger.
xviii. 1–7 . I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength.
xl. 14 . . Let them be ashamed.
lxi. . . . Hear my cry, O Lord.
lxxvii. to 13 I cried unto God with my voice.
cxxx. . . . Out of the depths have I cried.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph 3.
S. in Lent 2.
S. after Trin. 1.

It is not the one who is strong and able to take care of himself, but the sickly and weak one, that is pressed closest to the mother's heart.

A dying soldier asked Bp. Thorold, near the Seven Dials, what he did when too weak to pray: "Sir, when I am too weak to cling to Him, I ask Him to cling to me."—"*On Being Ill.*"

39. Lingering Illness.

Isa. xl. 1–11 . .	Comfort ye my people.
,, l. 5–11 . .	Messiah's sufferings and support.
John xv. 1–11 .	The true Vine.
,, xvi. 23–33 .	Christ's valedictory discourse.
2 Cor. vi. 1–10 .	Paul's distresses, and his courage and joy under them.
Phil. iv. 4–7 . .	Rejoicing in the Lord.
Eph. vi. 10–20 .	The spiritual conflict and the divine armour.

PSALMS—

GENERAL CASES.

xiii. . . .	How long wilt Thou forget me?
xvi. . . .	Preserve me, O God.
xxii. . . .	My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
xxiii. . . .	The Lord is my Shepherd.
xxxi. . . .	In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
xxxix. . .	I said, I will take heed.
lvii. . . .	Be merciful unto me, O God.
xc. . . .	O Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.
cxix. 121 .	I have done judgment and justice.
cxliii. . . .	Hear my prayer, O God.

WHEN DISAPPOINTED AT NOT RECOVERING.

xxviii. . .	Unto Thee will I cry.
lxx. . . .	Make haste, O Lord, to deliver me.

WHEN VERY FEEBLE.

PSA. lxxvii. . . I cried unto God with my voice.
lxxxviii. . . O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried.
cii. . . . Hear my prayer, O Lord.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Gentleness, For.
Murmuring and Impatience, Against.
Resignation, For.
Sickness, For acceptance of.
,, For profit by.
,, For sanctification through.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. in Adv. 1, 4.
S. after Epiph. 3.
S. after Easter 4.
S. after Trin. 1, 4.

The deeper God plunges the comet into the darkness out yonder, the closer does it come to the sun at its nearest distance, and the longer does it stand looking and glowing in the full-blaze of the glory from the central orb.

There will be no Christian but what will have a Gethsemane: but praying Christians will find that there is no Gethsemane without its angel.—*Binney.*

There is a dark and a bright side to every providence, as there was to the guiding pillar-cloud. Nature fixes on the dark and calls it sorrow. Faith sees the sun dispersing the darkness, and calls it by a name of joy.—*Bonar.*

40. Love to God.

Mark xii. 28–34. The great commandment in the law.

He loves not Christ at all who does not love Christ above all.—*Austin.*

This, like Aaron's rod of old, swallows up all evil enchantments of the heart. It enters the sacred temple within, and,

like another Messiah, it expels every lurking desecrator forthwith. It is a flame which not only lights up the dark chambers of the soul, but transmutes into its own essence all its elements of feeling and of thought.—*Dr. Thomas.*

41. Love to Man.

Matt. v. 43–48 .	The loving of our enemies.
„ xxii. 34–39	The great commandment in the law.
John xiii. 34, 35 .	Christ's new commandment, and the
„ xv. 12 . .	treasure of our love.
1 John iv. 7–21 .	God's love to men, and their love toward each other.

The greatest of these is love—for love is the seraph, and faith and hope are but the wings by which it flies.

Love one human being purely and warmly, and you will love all.

Mercy hath but its name from misery, and is no other thing than to lay another's misery to heart.—*Binning.*

42. Lukewarm or Undecided, The.

Jud. v. 16, 23 .	Reuben's indecision.
1 Kings xviii. 21	Elijah's summons to decision.
Isa. v. 1–7 . .	The song of the vineyard: Man's ingratitude and God's mercies: God's appeal for man's decision.
Ezek. xxxiii. 30–33	Rebuke for practically disregarding God's Word while taking pleasure in hearing it.
„ xxxvi. 25–31	Divine aid necessary to obedience.
Hosea vi. 4. . .	A new heart and a new spirit.
	Ephraim's hopeless case.
Rev. iii. 14–22 .	Laodicea lukewarm.

PSALMS—

lxxviii. 8, 37, 58 Give ear, O my people.
cvi. 12, 13 . Praise ye the Lord.

USEFUL SINGLE TEXTS—

Ezek. xiii. 5.	Luke ix. 62.
„ xvi. 30.	Gal. i. 6.
Zeph. i. 5.	Eph. iv. 14.
Hag. i. 2.	Heb. xiii. 9.
Matt. vi. 24.	Rev. ii. 4.

Like rust to the wheel, damp to the mirror, water to fire, weight to the wings.

A Christian need not row himself down the stream ; if he but rest upon his oars, the ebbing tide and rapid current will be enough.

It has been remarked by a physician, "I know of no complaint worse than *weak* health ; for it unhappily disposes the constitution to suffer from any kind of deadly illness which may come in its way." There is a spiritual low state of health which is just as dangerous ; faith, the sap of the moral plant, is in feeble exercise ; the soul is ready to fall a prey to any temptation with which Satan may assault it. The best safeguard against falling is a vigorous growth in grace.—*Mothers in Council.*

A gentleman who for many years has been engulfed in the cares of trade, and in a measure yielded to its temptations, remarked, "I have tried for twenty years to be a half-way Christian, and find it is impossible ; we must be at one or the other extreme ; and as for myself, I am determined hereafter to do my whole duty, and be a complete Christian." —*Christian Treasury.*

43. Meditation.

Gen. xxiv. 63. .	Isaac's meditation in the evening.
Psalm i. . . .	Blessed is the man.
„ lxii. . .	Truly my soul waiteth.

A garment that is double dyed, dipped again and again, will retain the colour a great while ; so a truth which is the subject of meditation.—*Philip Henry.*

If the bee went quickly from flower to flower, it would never gather honey, but by resting there it secures great spoil.

Meditation, like the harrow, covers the good seed that it may not be dissipated by contact with the world.—*Pilkington.*

44. Nervousness.

Isa. xxxii. 1–3 .	Christ a covert from the tempest.
„ „ 16–20.	The promise of quietness and assurance.
Matt. vi. 24–34 .	Thorough devotedness of service and entire trustfulness to God our heavenly Father.
„ viii. 23–27	The stilling of the tempest.
John xiv. 1–14 .	Notes of comfort to the disconsolate disciples at the thought of Christ's leaving them.
Rom. viii. 18–23	Encouragements and consolations of the justified.
Eph. iii. 13–21 .	Paul's prayer for the Ephesians' growth in spiritual strength and knowledge of Divine love.
Col. iii. 12–17 .	Exhortation to the cultivation of all the virtues of the new man.

PSALMS—

vii. . . .	O Lord, my God, in Thee do I put my trust.
xxvi. . . .	Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked.
xxviii. . .	Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my rock.
xlii. . . .	As the hart panteth.
lxxxvi. . .	Bow down Thine ear, O Lord.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

2 C. Matins.
S. after Epiph. 2, 4.
S. in Lent, 2.
S. after Trin. 3.

The answer of a Christian sailor, who was not sure that he could swim, when asked how he remained so calm in a fearful storm, was, "Though I sink, I shall only drop into the hollow of my Father's hand; for He holds all these waters there." Another says, "My life hangs by a single thread, but that thread is in a Father's hand."

45. Obedience.

Matt. iv. 8–10 .	The temptation of Christ.
„ v. 16–20 .	The righteousness required of Christ's disciples.
„ vii. 24–29.	The foolish and the wise builders.
„ xix. 16–22.	Answer to the question how to attain eternal life.
„ xxii. 35–40	The lawyer's question, Which is the great commandment?
„ xxv. 24–30	The unprofitable servant.
Mark x. 17–23 .	The rich young man: Our obedience to God must be absolute and entire: amiable professors falling short of heaven: the insufficiency of moral virtue without religious principle.
John xiv. 21–24.	The blessings belonging to the keeping of Christ's commandments.
Rom. xiii. 8–10 .	Love the fulfilling of the law.
2 Cor. v. 14–17 .	The constraining power of Christ's love.
Gal. ii. 6–21 . .	Paul's uncompromising loyalty to the truth.
Phil. iv. 8, 9 . .	The completeness of the Christian character.

Col. iii. 12–17, 23, 24	The cultivation of all the virtues of the new man.
Jas. ii. 2–11 . .	The royal law; or, the necessity of unreserved and uniform obedience.
„ iii. 13–18 .	The nature and properties of heavenly wisdom.
Rev. xx. 11, 12, 15	The qualifications of heavenly happiness.

In evil times it fares best with them that are most careful about duty, and least about safety.—*Hammond.*

All God's biddings are enablings. A cripple might as well lean upon his shadow for support as your heart depend upon sincere obedience for salvation.—*Berridge.*

I commend to Thee, Lord,
My impulses and my startings,
My intentions, and my attempts,
My going out, and my coming in,
My sitting down, and my rising up.
—*Bp. Andrew's Devotions.*

True obedience hath no lead at its heels.—*Adams.*

"Straightway" (Matt. iv. 20).—True obedience hath no delays.

46. Operation, Before an.

John xix. 1–31 .	The sufferings and crucifixion of Christ.
Rom. viii. 18–23.	The encouragements and consolations of the justified.
2 Cor. xi. 19–31 .	The distresses of Paul.
1 Pet. iv. 12, 13, 19	The trials of human life, and the support of good men under their sufferings for religion.

PSALMS—

vi.	O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger.
xx.	The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble.

Psa. lvii. . . . Be merciful unto me, O God.
xci. . . . He that dwelleth in the secret place.
cxxi. . . . I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.

Suitable Collects—

S. after Epiph. 3.
Palm S.
Prayers in Lit.—"We humbly beseech Thee."

The Rev. George Wagner speaks, in his Life, of being called to visit a poor man who had to undergo a painful operation, and begged that it might be deferred to Good Friday, that he might fix his mind more fully upon the sufferings of Christ.

47. Over-anxiousness.

Matt. vi. 25–34 . Trustfulness in our heavenly Father's care of us.

Whatever is a matter of our care should be a matter of our prayer.

Quarrel not with God's unfinished providences.

Needless fears are a bundle of fagots far too large for us to lift.

Melancthon, when he used sometimes to be anxious and troubled, would chide away his fears by saying, "Let Philip cease to rule the world."

Bulstrode Whitlock, Cromwell's envoy to Sweden, was one night so disturbed in mind over the state of his nation, that he could not sleep. His servant, observing it, said, "Pray, sir, will you give me leave to ask you a question?" "Certainly." "Do you think that God governed the world very well before you came into it?" "Undoubtedly." "And do you not think that He will govern the world quite as well when you are gone out of it?" "Certainly." "Then pray, sir, excuse me: do you not think that you may trust Him to govern it as long as you live?" No answer could be given, and composure and sleep followed.

It was wise advice of Sydney Smith, when he said that those who desire to go hopefully and cheerfully through their work in this life should "take short views;" not plan too far ahead; take the present blessing, and be thankful for it.—*Boyd.*

48. Pain, One in great bodily.

Matt. xxvii. . .	The sufferings and crucifixion of our Lord.
Mark xiv. xv. .	
Luke xxii. xxiii.	
John xix. 1–31 .	
Rom. viii. 18–23	The encouragements and consolations of the justified.
2 Cor. iv. 8–11 .	Paul's distresses made the means of magnifying the Lord.
„ xi. 19–31.	The distresses of Paul.

PSALMS—

vi.	O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger.
xxvii. . .	The Lord is my light and my salvation.
xxxviii. . .	O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy wrath.
xlii. . . .	As the hart panteth after the water brooks.
cxlii. . . .	I cried unto the Lord with my voice.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph. 3.
S. in Lent 2.
S. after Trin. 8.

"Oh!" said one (a youth aged only 21 years), when conflicting with the last enemy, "when I have most pain in my body I have most comfort in my soul. What is all I have gone through to what Christ suffered when He, in His extremity of His pain, cried 'I thirst'? He had none but enemies about Him, and they gave Him vinegar to drink; but when I am thirsty, every one is contriving the most salutary and pleasant draught for me. I would not exchange condition with the greatest monarch in the world. I do not doubt but that there is love in the bottom of this cup; it is bitter in the mouth. However, for all that, I would not go a moment before God's time is fully come; and I am sure that, when all

is over, I shall adore His mercy and the wisdom of this dispensation."

"There is no arguing with sense. I am in great pain, but I have great peace."—*R. Baxter.*

49. Patience.

Ps. xxxvii. 1–11	Fret not thyself because of evil doers.
Lam. iii. 22–35	It is of God's mercy we are not consumed.
2 Thess. i. 3–8	Thanksgiving for converts' patience.
Heb. vi. 9–12	Exhortation to a higher exercise of patience.
„ x. 32–39	Need to exercise constant patience.
„ xi. 39	Encouragements to running with patience.
„ xii. 1, 2	
Jas. v. 7–11	Patience (Illustrations of).
1 Pet. ii. 19–25	Patience taught by the example of Christ.

Patience is but lying-to and riding out the gale.—*Beecher.*

Pray and stay are two blessed monosyllables.—*Dr. Donne.*

Never think that God's delays are God's denials—Hold on; hold fast; hold out. Patience is genius.

With time and patience, the mulberry leaf becomes satin.—*Eastern Proverb.*

When one door shuts, another opens.

The yoke sits easiest on the neck of the patient ox, and he feels his chain the lightest who does not drag but carries it.

Man without patience is the lamp without oil.

I have not so great a struggle with my vices, great and numerous as they are, as I have with my impatience. My efforts are not absolutely useless; yet I have never been able to conquer this ferocious wild beast.—*Calvin.*

50. Penitent, For a.

Micah vii. 7–9	Chastisement and mercy.
„ „ 18, 19	The grace of God in pardoning sin.

Matt ix. 1–8 . .	The paralytic healed:
Mark ii. 1–12 .	Forgiveness of sins.
Luke viii. 4–15 .	Parable of the sower: The reception of the Gospel message dependent upon the recipient's state of mind and heart.
„ xv. 1–10 .	Christ's search after sinners.
John xx. 11–18 .	Christ's appearance after His resurrection to Mary Magdalene.
„ xxi. 15–19.	The restoration of Peter.
1 Cor. ix. 24–27.	The Christian race.
Eph. v. 1–14 . .	An earnest appeal to forsake sin and awake to righteousness.
Col. iii. 1–7 . .	An exhortation to heavenly-mindedness and forsaking of evil.

PSALMS—

vi.	O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger.
xxv.	Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
xxxii. . . .	Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.
xxxviii. . . .	O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy wrath.
li.	Have mercy upon me, O Lord.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Enlightenment, For.
Hope, For.
Grace, For.
Newness of Life, For.
Pardon, For.
Purity of Heart, For.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

S. after Epiph. 5.
Ash. Wed.
S. after Trin. 24.

The falls of believers, *repented of*, make no flaws in their justification. Justification is not built upon our obedience, but upon the righteousness of Christ.

No sin is so great but that, coming straight from it, a repentant sinner may hope and believe that all God's love will be lavished upon him, and the richest of God's gifts granted to his desires.—*Maclaren.*

Our faults are like a grain of sand beside the great mountain of the mercies of God.—*Vianney.*

51. Persecuted, The.

Matt. v. 10–12 .	The blessedness of the persecuted for Christ's sake.
Rom. viii. 33–39	Persecutions cannot separate from Christ.
2 Cor. iv. 8–12 .	Paul's courage under persecutions.
Heb. xi. 32–40 .	The great things faith can do.
1 Peter iv. 12–19	Comfort offered to the persecuted.

The best rule under persecution is, if you are made to suffer for religion, see that religion do not suffer by you.

Suffering seasons are *sifting seasons*, in which the Christian loses his chaff, and the hypocrite his corn.

The Church may be *oppressed*, but it shall never be *suppressed.*

The only thing we have really to be afraid of is fearing anything more than God.—*Gregory Nazianzen.*

Do they cast us out of the city? They cannot cast us out of that which is in the heavens. If they who hate us could do this, they would be doing something real against us. So long, however, as they cannot do this, they are but pelting us with drops of water, or striking us with the wind.—*Gregory Nazianzen.*

The wild beasts may grind me as corn between their teeth; but I shall by that become as choice bread in the hand of my God.—*Ignatius.*

Beza, the Reformer, well replied to the King of Navarre, "Sire, it belongs truly to God's Church rather to suffer blows than to strike them; but let it be your pleasure to remember that the Church is *an anvil which hath worn out many a hammer.*"

52. Poverty, For one in.

1 Sam. ii. 1–12 .	Hannah's thanksgiving.
Isa. xl. 1–21 . .	Comfort ye my people.
Hab. iii. 17–19 .	Rejoicing even in the worst times.
Matt. vi. 19–34 .	Trust in God's fatherly care.
„ viii. 20. . } 2 Cor. viii. 9 . . }	Christ a homeless pilgrim.
1 Cor. i. 26–29 . {	The condition in life of the early Christians.
Jas. ii. 5 . . .	The poor rich in faith.

PSALMS—

xxxiv. . .	I will bless the Lord at all times.
xl. . . .	I waited patiently for the Lord.

Many whom the world regards as dirt, the Lord esteems as jewels.

Judge a Christian, says one, not by his coat, but by his character.

A little bird in her small down nest sings pleasantly, when the great birds in their large thorny nests have but harsh voices.—*Swinnock.*

"Poor, but loyal"—the inscription on one of the banners carried by the workhouse children of Hull on the occasion of the Queen's visit to that port.

Never shall I forget my mother's gentle tone as she simply replied, "Never mind; if you cannot have a piano on earth, you may have a harp in heaven."

53. Pride.

Matt. xxiii. 8–12	Neither be ye called masters.
Mark ix. 33–37 . {	Disciples dispute about who should be the greatest.
Luke xiv. 7–11 .	Choosing chief seats.
Rom. xii. 3, 16 . {	No man to think too well of himself.
1 Cor. iv. 4, 7 .	Who maketh thee to differ?

Satan is subtle; he will make a man proud that he is not proud.—*Brooks.*

What is the man proud of? *Money?* It will not procure for him one night's sleep. It will not bring back a lost friend. It will not drive off approaching death. *Land?* A very little bit of it will serve him soon. *Learning?* If he be equal to Newton, he has gathered one little pebble on the ocean's shore, and even that one he must soon lay down again.—*S. Teachers' Treasury.*

54. Recover, One not likely to.

Eccles. xii. 3–7 .	Description of old age: religion the chief duty.
,, ,, 13, 14	
Matt. vi. 19–21 .	Heavenly-mindedness.
,, xi. 27–30 .	Christ's invitation to the weary and heavy-laden.
,, xxii. 11–14	The wedding garment.
Luke xxi. 25–36	The duties of vigilance, circumspection, and prayer, viewed in the light of coming judgment.
,, xxiii. 39–43	The penitent malefactor.
John iii. 14–22 .	The gospel kingdom: the salvation of believers and condemnation of unbelievers.
,, v. 24, 25 .	The happy state of the true believer.
,, vi. 67–69 .	The wisdom and duty of a persevering profession of our faith: The danger of a relapse.
,, xii. 23–26 .	Our Lord's view of His own death.
,, xiv. 1–6 .	Notes of comfort to the disconsolate disciples at the thought of Christ's leaving them.
Acts vii. 1–60 .	Stephen's death.
Rom. xiii. 8–14 .	The nearness of salvation and the duty of amendment.
,, xiv 7–12 .	Entire consecration viewed in the light of the certainty of the judgment.

1 Cor. xv. 50–58	Victory over death in Christ.
2 Cor. iv. 16–18.	A Christian's relief under his troubles; or the triumphs in the assurance of a glorious immortality.
Phil. iv. 4–7 . .	Rejoicing in God: peace in believing.
2 Tim. iv. 6–8 .	Paul's joyful confidence in the prospect of approaching martyrdom.
Heb. xii. 1, 2. .	Christ our example in affliction.
1 Pet. ii. 19–25 .	The duty of patience under affliction illustrated from the example of our Lord.
1 John i. 1–9. .	Communion with God: The confession and forgiveness of sin.
„ iii. 1–8 .	The dignity and holiness of God's children.
„ iv. 7–21 .	Persuasive arguments for the duty of brotherly love.
Rev. vii. 13–17 .	The blessedness of the glorified state.

PSALMS—

xvi. . . .	Preserve me, O God.
xxiii. . . .	The Lord is my Shepherd.
xxvii. . .	The Lord is my light and my salvation.
xxxix. 5–13	Behold, Thou hast made my days.
xc. . . .	Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.
cii. 1–6 . .	Hear my prayer, O God.
„ 11, 12 .	My days are like a shadow: But thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever.
„ 23–28 .	He weakened my strength in the way.
cxxx. . . .	Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee.

Psa. cxlii. . . . { I cried unto the Lord with my voice.

Topics for Prayer—

Blessed Death, For a.
Cleansing, For.
Faith, For.
Eternal joy, For.
Preparation for Judgment, For.
Resignation, For.
Sanctification, For.
Support, For.

Suitable Collects—

S. in Adv. 1.
S. in Epiph. 3.
S. after Asc.
S. after Trin. 12.

In Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; let me never be confounded.

"I never fear," said a little child, "when my father is with me."

I have often laughed to see Death shake his dust at me. O grave! where is thy victory?

55. Recovery from Sickness, Thanksgiving for.

2 Kings xx. 1–7. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery.

Luke xiv. 16–24. { The great supper; or, excuses for neglecting religion.

„ xvii. 11–19 { The ten lepers: Insensible to divine goodness: Thankfulness, the life of the regenerate.

John vi. 51–57 .	Christ the spiritual food of His people.
Rom. viii. 12–17	The obligations of the justified viewed in relation to their privileges.
1 Cor. xi. 23–32.	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the duty of every one to regularly receive it.
Eph. ii. 13–18 .	Reconciliation to God, and fellowship with God by the blood of Jesus.
Col. i. 10–14 . .	Spiritual growth and fruitfulness through the knowledge of Christ.
Heb. iv. 14–16 .	Encouragement derived from the character of Christ, as our sympathetic High Priest in our approaches to the Throne of Grace.
„ x. 9–14 . .	Christ our perfect and only sacrifice.

PSALMS—

xvi. . . .	Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust.
xviii. 1–6 .	I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength.
xxiii. . . .	The Lord is my Shepherd.
xxx. . . .	I will extol Thee, O Lord.
xxxiv. . .	I will bless the Lord at all times.
xl. . . .	I waited patiently for the Lord.
lxiii. . . .	O God, Thou art my God.
xcii. 1–9. .	It is a good thing to give thanks.
xcviii. . .	O sing unto the Lord a new song.
ciii. . . .	Bless the Lord, O my soul.
cxvi. . . .	I love the Lord.
cxviii. . . .	O give thanks unto the Lord.
cxix. 65 . .	Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant.
cxxi. . . .	I will lift up mine eyes.
cxxvi. . . .	When the Lord turned again.

Psa. cxxxviii. . { I will praise Thee with my whole heart.
cxlv. . . . I will extol Thee, my God, O King.

Topics for Prayer—

For a due sense of his obligation.
For grace to perform his vows.
Against falling back.
For the performance of his vows.

Suitable Collects—

S. after Epiph. 4.
S. after Trin. 3, 7, 13, 25.
Collects to be said after the Offertory, 2.
Last Thanksgiving Coll.

The English proverb says, "The river past and God forgotten," to express with how mournful a frequency He whose assistance was invoked—it may have been earnestly in the moment of peril—is remembered no more, so soon as by His help the danger has been surmounted. And the Italian form of it sounds a still sadder depth of ingratitude: "The peril past, the saint mocked"—the vows made to him in peril remaining unperformed in safety, and be treated something as, in Greek story, Juno was treated by Mandrabulus the Samian, who having under her auspices, and through her direction, discovered a gold mine, in his instant gratitude vowed to her a golden ram, which he presently exchanged in intention for a silver one; and again this for a very small brass one; and this for nothing at all; the rapidly descending scale of whose gratitude, with the entire disappearance of his thanksgiving, might very profitably live in our memories, as so perhaps it would be less likely to repeat itself in our lives.—*Archbp. Trench.*

Many persons who appear to repent are like sailors who throw their goods overboard in a storm, and wish for them again in a calm.—*Mead.*

56. Repentance.

Hos. xiii. 4–9 . { Ephraim's sinful ingratitude to God and its fatal consequences.

Luke vii. 37–50 .	The woman which was a sinner in Simon's house: the effects and evidences of forgiven sin.
„ xiii. 1–5 .	Christ preaching repentance upon the punishment of the Galileans: Warnings of the necessity of repentance.
„ xv. 11–24 .	The prodigal son.
„ xviii. 10–14	The publican and the Pharisee.
„ xxii. 54–62	Peter's repentance.
„ xxiii. 39–43	The penitent thief.
Acts ii. 22–40 .	Peter's exhortation, at the day of Pentecost, to repentance.
„ xvii. 24–31 .	Paul's sermon at Athens.
Rom. iii. 19–26 .	Justification by faith.
„ viii. 5–8 .	The position, state, and obligations
„ „ 12–14	of the justified.
„ xiv. 11–14	Call to amendment.
2 Cor. vii. 10, 11	Godly sorrow.
Eph. ii. 1–10. .	Salvation by grace.
Col. iii. 1–10 . .	The duty of holiness of life.
Tit. ii. 11–14. .	Dying and living with Christ.
1 Pet. v. 8–11 .	Duty of soberness and watchfulness.
1 John i. 5–10 .	Forgiveness of sins.
„ ii. 15–17.	The incompatibility of the love of the world and God.
„ iii. 7–10 .	The character of God's children and Satan's slaves.

There is *one* case of death-bed repentance recorded, that no one should despair, and only one, but no one should presume. *St. Augustine.*

If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.—*Mason.*

He that hath promised pardon on our repentance hath not promised life till we repent.—*Quarles.*

You cannot repent too soon, because you know not how soon it may be too late.—*Fuller.*

True repentance is never too late; but late repentance is seldom true.

Repentance begins in the humiliation of the heart, and ends in the reformation of life.—*Mason.*

Real repentance consists in the heart being broken *for* sin and *from* sin.—*Nevins.*

There is no going to the Fair Haven of glory without sailing through the narrow strait of repentance.—*Dyer.*

The way to heaven is by Weeping Cross.

He that repents every day for the sins of every day, when he comes to die will have the sin but of one day to repent of. Short reckonings make long friends.—*P. Henry.*

57. Sailors.

Matt. viii. 23–27	The stilling of the tempest.
,, xiii. 47–52	The draw net.
John xxi. 1–14 .	The 2d miraculous draught of fishes.
cf. Matt. iv. 18–22	,, 1st ,, ,, ,,
Acts xxvii. . .	Paul's shipwreck.
cf. Jonah i. .	
1 Cor. x. 1, 2. .	The passing through the sea.
Rev. xxi. 1 . .	No more sea.

PSALMS—

lxvii. . . .	I cried unto God.
lxxxix. *esp.* v. 9	I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
xciii. . . .	The Lord reigneth.
cvii. 23–43 .	O give thanks unto the Lord.

When the late Com. Foote was in Siam, he had upon one occasion the king on board his vessel as a guest. Like a Christian man as he was, he did not hesitate in the royal presence to ask a blessing as the guests took their place at the table. "Why, that is just as the missionaries do!" remarked the king with some surprise. "Yes," answered the heroic sailor, "and I am a missionary too!"

58. Sceptical Person, A.

Isa. lii. 13 to *liii.* 3 . . .	The foretold rejection of a suffering Messiah.

Micah vi. 1–8 .	God's controversy with Israel; and the need of moral virtues rather than costly sacrifices.
Luke i. 11–20 .	The unbelief and punishment of Zechariah.
„ xvi. 19–31	The rich man and Lazarus: The sufficiency of Christian revelation to lead to conviction.
John v. 39–47 .	The real cause of unbelief.
„ xx. 24–29 .	St. Thomas's unbelief and conviction.
Rom. xii. 1–3 .	An appeal for grateful self-consecration.
Heb. iv. 1–13 .	Unbelief excludes from, and faith alone enables us to attain, the heavenly rest.

PSALMS—

xxiv. 1–6 .	The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof.
xxxii. 1–11 .	Blessed is he whose transgression.
xxxvii. 1, 2 .	Fret not thyself because of evil-doers.
„ 34–40	Wait on the Lord, and keep His way.
xlix. . . .	Hear this, all ye people, give ear.
lxxiii. 1–19.	Truly God is good to Israel.
lxxviii. 1–13	Give ear, O my people, to my law.
xciv. 1–15 .	O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Awakening, For.
Blessings promised to faith, For the.
Faith, For a childlike.
Unbelief, For deliverance from.

There are some men who are capable of believing everything but the Bible.—*Napoleon* to Marshal Duroc.

You see the water of yonder fountain, how it is forced upwards in a round column to a certain height, at which it breaks and falls back into the basin whence it rose; its ascent, as well as descent, proceeding from the same uniform law, or principle of gravitation. Just so the same principles, which at first view lead to scepticism, pursued to a certain point, bring men back to common sense.—*Bp. Berkeley.*

Scepticism often arises from want of diligence in the examination of evidence, or from a deficiency in the judicial faculty by which the value and bearing of evidence is to be determined. A judicial hesitation which refuses to give a full intellectual assent to any truth, except on fair evidence of research, reasoning, or testimony, is a form of scepticism which is the true ally of faith, and the constant foe of superstition.

"Dr. Halley, I am always glad to hear you when you speak about astronomy or other parts of mathematics, because that is a subject you have studied and well understand; but you should not talk of Christianity, for you have not studied it. I have, and am certain you know nothing about the matter." —*Sir Isaac Newton.*

An infidel, on his death-bed, felt himself adrift in the terrible surges of doubt and uncertainty. Some of his friends urged him to hold on to the end. He replied, "I have no objection to holding on; but will you tell me what I am to hold on by?"

59. Self-examination, The Duty of.

Matt. xxv. 31–46	Description of the day of judgment.
Luke xxi. 29–36	The budding fig-tree.
Rom. ii. 1–16	The divine impartiality to be shown in the distribution of final awards, with reference to personal character:
	The standard possessed.
,, xiv. 9–12	Impartiality to mark the judgment day.
2 Cor. v. 9–11	Ditto.
1 Pet. iv. 3–7, 17, 18	The solemn account to be rendered.

2 Pet. iii. 6–15 . { Future judgment as an argument against sceptical indifference, and for a holy life.
Rev. vi. 12–17 . The great day of wrath.
„ xx. 11–15 . The general judgment.

Many persons are like travellers, skilled in other countries, but ignorant of their own.—*Secker.*

It is reported of Sextus that every night before he slept, he asked of his own heart—

"What evil hast thou this day amended? what vice hast thou shunned? what good hast thou done? in what part art thou bettered?"

60. Selfishness.

Luke vi. 32–35 . The duty of disinterested goodness.
Rom. xv. 1–3 . Self-denying love inculcated.
Phil. ii. 4–11, *cf.* 20, 21 . { Christ's unselfish love.
2 Tim. iii. 2, 5 . { Selfishness placed in the dark catalogue of sins to mark last days.
Jas. ii. 14–26 . . Faith and works.

Moses' Ex. Num. xi. 29; xiv. 12–19.
Paul's Ex. 1 Cor. x. 33; Phil. i. 18; iv. 17.

Every day should be distinguished by at least one particular act of love.

Is self thy centre? Is it the centre of that vast circumference where lost souls meet?

Live as near as you can to Jesus, but daily die to self.—*Mr. Berridge's Advice to Mrs. Wilberforce.*

61. Self-righteousness.

Gen. xi. 1–9 . . Babel and the dispersion.
Num. xvi. 3–5, 28–33 } The rebellion of Korah.
Deut. viii. 11–18 { Warning against pride, self-righteousness, self-confidence, and forgetfulness of God.

Deut. ix. 3–6, 26–29	Cautions to Israel against ascribing their possession of Canaan to their righteousness.
Job. ix. 19–33 .	A self-justified spirit condemned: An estimate of the morality that is without righteousness.
„ xxxiii. 8–12	Elihu's censure of Job's self-justification and complaints of God.
„ xxxiv. 5, 10–12	The unwisdom of imputing injustice to God in order to vindicate our conduct.
„ xlii. 1–6. .	Job's acknowledgment of God's wisdom and supremacy, and a penitent confession of his own ignorance and presumption.
Isa. ii. 10–19 .	The abasement of pride in Christ's kingdom.
Jer. ix. 23, 24 .	False and true grounds of glorying.
Luke xiv. 7–11 .	Choosing chief seats: The grace and blessedness of humility.
„ xviii. 10–14	Self-exception: The use and abuse of comparing our practice with that of other men.
John xiii. 3–17 .	Christ washing His disciples' feet a lesson of humility and mutual condescension.
Rom. ii. 17–25 .	An expostulation with the self-righteous and inconsistent boasters of privileges.
„ iii. 21–31 .	The doctrine of justification as an answer to all species of self-righteousness.
„ xi. 12–21 .	The relation between Jewish exclusion and Gentile admission, an argument against self-righteousness and presumption.

Rom. xii. 1–5. .	The obligations of a complete and humble self-dedication to God.
1 Cor. i. 18–31 .	A contrast between human and divine wisdom.
Gal. vi. 1–5 . .	Self-complacency and a spirit of boastfulness condemned: The duty of forbearance and brotherly sympathy.
Phil. ii. 1–8 . .	The humiliation and condescension of Christ.
„ iii. 12–15 .	The pressing forward of the believer through a sense of his imperfection.
Rev. iii. 14–19 .	The pride and poverty and duty of lukewarm Christians.

PSALMS—

v. 3–7 . .	Give ear to my word, O Lord.
vii. 12–18 .	O Lord, my God, in Thee do I put my trust.
xi. . . .	In the Lord put I my trust.
xxxvii. 1, 2 10–16	Fret not thyself because of evil-doers.
lxiv. 1–9. .	Hear my voice, O God.
lxxiii. . .	Truly God is good to Israel.
lxxxi. . .	Sing aloud unto God our strength.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Calling, That we walk worthy of our.
Grace, For.
Grace of the Holy Spirit, For the.
Grace to see his faults, For.
Pardon, For.

Suppose it is needful for you to cross a river over which two planks are thrown. One is perfectly new, the other is completely rotten. How will you go? If you walk upon the rotten one, you are sure to fall into the river. If you put one

foot on the rotten plank, and the other on the new plank, it will be the same; you will certainly fall through and perish. So there is only one method left. Put your feet on the new plank.

62. Servants.

Gen. xxiv. 1–59 .	Eliezer.
,, xxxv. 8 . .	Deborah.
Philemon . . .	Onesimus.
Eph. vi. 5–9 . .	The duties of servants to their masters.
Col. iii. 22–25 .	

The lowest condition of life does not disqualify us from producing graces and excellences. The meanest may be a mirror of God; even a pool can reflect the glorious sun.—*Dulce Domum.*

1. Do not flatter and spoil the children.
2. Do not tyrannise over them.
3. Be a peacemaker among the other servants.
4. Beware of acquaintances and friends that are self-introduced.
5. Do not misspend holidays, and employ to your ruin that which is set apart for innocent recreation and improvement.
6. On Sundays go to the house of God and worship Him.
7. If you devote the hours of the Lord's Day to pleasuring, you forfeit the great Master's blessing.

63. Sick, Attendants on the.

Matt. xxv. 31–46	The recognition and rewards of loving service to the sick at the judgment day.
Luke iv. 16–19 .	Our Lord's first sermon at Nazareth: Christ the healer of the broken-hearted.

Luke x. 39, 40 . Martha and Mary: Diligence and devotion.
Acts x. 38. . . Christ in His unwearied diligence in doing good.

64. Sickness, Ordinary case of.

Job. v. 6–19 . . Affliction the common lot of humanity, and the duty of submission under it.
„ xxxiv. 31, 32 The patient and docile sufferer.
Prov. iii. 11–26 . Submission under God's fatherly chastening: The happiness attendant.
Lam. iii. 40, 41 . Let us search and try our ways.
Matt. viii. 1–13 . Miracles of healing.
Luke x. 38–42 . Martha and Mary.
„ xv. 1–10 . Christ's search after sinners.
„ xxiv. 36–47 Christ's address to His disciples on the evening of the resurrection day.
Rom. viii. 18–23 The encouragements and consolations of the justified.
„ xiii. 8–14 . Love the fulfilling of the law.
2 Cor. vi. 1–10 . Paul's courage and joy under most distressing circumstances.
1 Thess. v. 1–11 Exhortation to constant watchfulness and preparedness for the day of the Lord.
1 John v. 13–21. The personal realisation of the Divine fellowship

PSALMS—

vi. . . . . O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger.
xiii. . . . How long wilt Thou forget me?
xxxii. . . . Blessed is he whose transgression.
xxxviii. . . O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy wrath.

Psa. li.	Have mercy upon me, O God.
lvii. . . .	Be merciful unto me, O God.
lxxvii. . .	I cried unto God with my voice.
lxxxviii. . .	O Lord God of my salvation.
xc.	O Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.
cii. . . .	Hear my prayer, O Lord.
cxxx. . . .	Out of the depths have I cried.
cxlii.	I have cried unto the Lord with my voice.
cxliii. . . .	Hear my prayer, O Lord.

Topics for Prayer—

Cross, Drawing of the, For.
„ Strength to bear the, For.
Joy in the midst of suffering, For.
Murmuring and Impatience, Against.
Repentance, For.
Resignation, For.
Passion, On the.
Patience, For.
Peace of mind, For.
Sanctification through Sickness, For.
Thankfulness in affliction, For.
Word (Holy), Blessing for reading the.
„ „ on hearing the.

Suitable Collects—

Septuag.
Ash Wed.
Palm S.
S. after Easter, 3, 4.
S. after Trin. 1, 4, 10, 12, 17, 18.

During Dr. Payson's last illness, a friend coming into his room said, "Well, I am sorry to see you lying here on your back." "Do you not know what God puts us on our backs for?" said Dr. Payson, smiling. "No," was the answer. "In *order* that we may look upward."

65. Sinned, For one who has greatly.

Isa. i. 2–6 . . .	God's complaint against revolters.
Ezek. xiv. . . .	God's sore punishments: Individual responsibility.
„ xviii. 23–32	A summons to repentance: God's way equal; man's unequal.
Joel ii. 12–17 .	Summons to repentance and prayer.
Luke xxi. 25–33.	Great troubles in the last days for unbelievers.
Rom. xii. . . .	Exhortation to general Christian duties as members of Christ's body.
„ xiii. 8–14 .	Exhortation to love, as fulfilling of the law.
Eph. v. 1–14 . .	An earnest appeal to forsake sin, and to awake to righteousness.

PSALMS—

xiv. . . .	The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.
xv.	Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle?
xxv. . . .	Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
li.	Have mercy upon me, O God.
lii.	Why boastest thou thyself in mischief?
liii. . . .	The fool hath said in his heart.
cxii. . . .	Praise ye the Lord.
cxix. 1–8 .	Blessed are the undefiled.

TOPICS FOR PRAYER—

Contrition, For.
Pardon, For.
Penitence, For.
Sin, For a sense of.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

Septuag.
S. in Lent, 4.
S. after Easter, 1.

Every bill which a man in difficulties draws is the accumulating for himself debts with *increasing interest* when the day of credit is run out.

Every sin which a man commits is the planting a seed of sorrow and punishment, which will bear fruit—if not here, yet hereafter—some thirty, some sixty fold, and some an hundred fold.

The longer the storm is gathering, the greater will be its force when it arrives and bursts.

The wrath of God is like waters that are dammed for the present; they increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the longer the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty is its course when once it is let loose.—*President Edwards.*

The Sovereign Ruler "wooes" His erring creatures by His kindness, as well as "awes" them by His judgments, and yet how often does man remain,

"Though wooed and awed,
Blessed and chastised, a flagrant rebel still!"

—*Dr. Wardlaw.*

An active business man, seeing death unavoidable, said to his physician, "Doctor, I have made every provision for living; and now I must die, though utterly unprepared for it."

"Ah! Mr. Harvey," said a dying man, "the day in which I ought to have worked is over, and now I see a horrible night approaching, bringing with it the blackness of darkness for ever."

66. Sleep, One troubled with too much.

Rev. vii. 15–17 . { The ceaseless and unhindered worship in heaven.

67. Sleeplessness.

Job vii. 1–4 . .	Job's useless days and wearisome nights.
Rom. viii. 18–23	The encouragement and consolation of the justified.
Rev. xxii. 1–7 .	No night in heaven.

PSALMS—

iv.	Hear me when I call, O God.
xvi. . . .	Preserve me, O God.
lxiii. . . .	O God, Thou art my God.
lxxvii. . .	I cried unto the Lord with my voice.

SUITABLE COLLECT—

S. after Asc.

The nightingale sings the most sweetly because she sings in the night. We know a poet has said that, if she sang by day, she might be thought to sing no more sweetly than the wren. It is the stillness of the night that makes her song sweet. And so does a Christian's song become sweet and hearty, because it is in the night.

68. Soldiers.

Matt. viii. 5–13 .	Healing of the centurion's servant.
„ xi. 12, 13 .	The kingdom of heaven taken by violence.
1 Cor. ix. 25–27 .	Christian race and fight—necessity of training and self-discipline.
Eph. vi. 10–18 .	The Christian armour.
2 Tim. iv. 6–8 .	The good fight of faith.

Law promised to bestow its crowns when the conflict should

be over; but Grace first crowned its soldiers and then led them into the battle.—*Chrysostom.*

An old soldier said, "When I was a young fellow in the army, we used often to receive the word of command, 'Right about face!' and when I became a soldier of the cross, this is just the command I received from my Captain still calling me to Him, 'Right about' from where I was before; and I love to obey the call."

69. Stuntedness.

Gal. v. 18–25 .	The fruits of the Spirit.
Col. i. 3–12 . .	Growth in grace.
2 Pet. i. 5–12 .	Chain of grace.
„ iii. 18	Growth in grace.
cf. John xv. 1–11	Christian fruitfulness.

Be not to me as a cloud without rain, lest I be to Thee like a tree without fruit.—*Spurstowe.*

The olive presents a beautiful emblem of Christian fruitfulness. Generous old tree, munificent to the lofty and the lowly—yielding thy grateful fruit to prince and peasant. For 200 years thou showerest down thy ripe mercies. One generation cometh and another goeth; but still the olive berries fall. Thou bearest fruit with all thy might; never stinting thyself, and never robbing thy owner of his score of brimming jars. Even when thou standest on the most barren, desolate stone-bed, thou canst bring "oil out of the flinty rock," and pour down fatness on the very spot that is mocked with dreariness and desolation.—*T. L. Cuyler.*

The perfection of the school is a kind of mandarin perfection, like that of a Chinese garden filled with dwarfed plants and trees, with oaks two feet high. Scriptural perfection is like the oak of the forest, gigantic and unstunted in its growth, filling up its native and noble proportions, not stunted and dwarfed by the rules of art.

70. Submission.

Job i. 20–22 . .	The resignation of Job under the loss of children and property.

Isa. liii. 3–5, 7 .	The willing sufferings of Christ.
Matt. xxvi. 36–44	The agony.
Acts xxi. 10–14 .	The prediction of Agabus, and Paul's readiness to suffer for Christ's sake.
Phil. iii. 7–11 .	Gain counted loss.
Jas. iv. 6–10 . .	Humility and submission.
1 Pet. ii. 19–25 .	Enduring grief and suffering wrongfully.
„ iii. 17, 18.	Suffering for well-doing.
„ iv. 1, 2 .	
„ v. 5–7 . .	Trustful submission to God's will.

A well-tuned heart must have all its strings and all its affections ready to answer every touch of God's fingers.

"I thank God that every blessing of worldly comfort that I prayed for, the longer He has kept it from me; and the more I prayed for it, I found it the greater comfort in the end."

71. Sudden Illness, After.

Mark xiii. 22–37	Watching for the unknown day.
John xiv. 1–14 .	Notes of comfort to the disconsolate.
2 Cor. v. 18 . .	The ministry of reconciliation: Duty of immediately closing with offers of mercy.
„ vi. 2 . .	
Phil. i. 20–26 . *cf.* 2 Cor. v. 1–6	Paul's view of life and death.
PSALM— xxxi. . . .	In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.

72. Suicide, After attempted.

Matt. xxvii. 3–5 .	The sin of Judas.

If Patient Penitent.

Joel iii. 12–17 .	Summons to repentance and prayer.
Mal. iv. . . .	The coming of Christ, and the duty of personal purification.
Luke xxi. 25–33.	Great troubles in the last days for sinners.
Acts xvi. 19–34 .	The jailer at Philippi.
Rom. xiii. 8–14 .	Exhortation to love, as the fulfilling of the law.

Psalms—

xiv. . . .	The fool hath said in his heart.
li.	Have mercy upon me, O God.
lxxxviii. . .	O Lord God of my salvation.
cxxx. . . .	Out of the depths have I cried.

Topics for Prayer—

Contrition (True), For.
Devil, Against direct temptation of the.
Pardon, For.

Suitable Collects—

Septuag.
S. in Lent, 4.

God has appointed us captains of these our bodily forts, which, without treason to that Majesty, are never to be delivered over till they are demanded.—*Sir P. Sidney.*

73. Thankfulness.

Ps. cxix. 75 . .	The judgments of God are inflicted for the benefit of man.
Isa. xii. 1–6 . .	The believer's song: The wells of salvation.

Hab. iii. 17–19	Thankfulness in even the darkest times.
Acts v. 27–42	The deliverance and rejoicing of the apostles after their second arrest.
2 Cor. iv. 13–18.	Glory weighs down the cross.
Eph. v. 17–21	The duty of thankfulness in all things.
Phil. iv. 4–7	Rejoicing in God: Peace in believing.
Col. ii. 6, 7	Walking in Christ with an increasing thankfulness.
1 Pet. iv. 12–19.	A thankful spirit under persecution.

God often sends judgments because we will not own His hand of mercy.

Special mercies call us to special duties. It is just that he who holds the largest farm should pay the largest rent.

74. Tried and Tempted.

Dan. iii. 16–30	The three witnesses in the plain of Dura.
Rom. viii. 33–39	A review of the blessedness of the redeemed.
2 Cor. xii. 7–10.	St. Paul's thorn in the flesh.
Rev. xix. 5–9	The Lamb's wife, *i.e.*, the tried Church.

Years ago, one of our fleets was terribly shattered by a violent gale. It was found that some of the ships were unaffected by its violence. They were in what mariners call the "eye of the storm." While all around was desolation, they were safe. —*F. G. Pilkington.*

Not to be tempted of the devil is the greatest temptation out of hell.

A sentinel posted on the walls, when he discerns a hostile party advancing, does not attempt to make head against them.

himself; but informs the commanding officer of the enemy's approach, and leaves him to take the proper measures against the foe.

Luther used to say there were many of the Psalms he could never understand till he had been afflicted. Rutherford declared he had got a new Bible through the furnace.

Luther says, "Once upon a time the devil came to me and said, 'Luther, you are a great sinner, and you will be damned.' 'Stop, stop!' said I, 'one thing at a time. I am a great sinner: that is true, though you have no right to tell me of it. I confess it. What next?'—'Therefore you will be damned.' 'That is not good reasoning. It is true I am a great sinner, but it is written: Jesus Christ came to save sinners, therefore I shall be saved.' So I cut the devil off with his own sword; and he went away mourning because he could not cast me down by calling me a sinner."

75. Trust in God's Mercy.

Deut. xxxi. 12, 25–29.	Divine protection; or the security of those who dwell in God.
Ps. xci. . . .	He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High.
Isa. xxvi. 1–8 .	The blessings attendant on the mind being stayed in Christ.
„ l. 7–10 . .	Trust in the Lord the best support of the righteous under affliction.
„ liii. 4–6 . .	Christ as our Surety and Sin-Bearer.
„ „ 10, 11	
John iii. 16–21 .	Complete salvation for all believers.
Acts iv. 8–12 . .	Salvation in Christ alone.
Rom. v. 6–11 . .	Reconciliation and complete salvation for the justified.
Eph. i. 3–7 . .	Thanks to God for His sovereign grace and mercy.
„ ii. 3–18 .	Reconciliation and access by Christ.
Col. i. 19–23 . .	Reconciliation by Christ.
Titus iii. 4–7 . .	Salvation by grace without works.

Our salvation does not depend upon what we are, but upon what God is.

Once there was a poor woman who greatly desired a bunch of grapes from the king's conservatory for her sick child. She took half-a-crown, and went to the king's gardener, and tried to purchase the grapes, but was rudely repulsed. A second effort with more money met with like results. It happened that the king's daughter heard the angry words of the gardener, and the crying of the woman, and inquired into the matter. When the poor woman had told her story, the princess said, "My dear woman, you were mistaken. My father is not a merchant, but a king; his business is not to *sell*, but to *give*;" whereupon she plucked the bunch from the vine, and gently dropped it into the woman's apron. So the woman obtained as a free gift what the labour of many days and nights had proved unable to procure her.

76. Unbelief. (*See* 58.)

As a child brought up in a dungeon cannot believe when told of the beauties of the sun and the outside world, no more can the natural man the doctrines of religion.

None deny there is a God, but those for whom it maketh that there were no God.—*Lord Bacon.*

"Here goes for a leap in the dark!"

"For me my elder brethren stay,
And angels beckon me away,
And Jesus bids me come."

77. Uncharitableness. (*See* 41.)

Rom. xiv. . . . { The duty of charitable judgment of man.

1 Cor. xiii. . . The ode to Christian charity.

Those who are fellow-creatures with men should not be fellow-judges with God.

It is a sad thing when Christians borrow spectacles to behold their weak brethren's weaknesses, and refuse looking-glasses wherein they may see their weak brethren's graces.

78. Visit, Ordinary or First.

Gen. xviii. 19	Abraham, or the conduct of a wise father in his family.
Josh. xxiv. 15	Joshua's resolve.
Mal. iii. 16, 17	Christian fellowship approved by God.
Rom. i. 8–12	Ministerial and Christian communion.
„ xv. 32	
2 Tim. i. 5	Early instruction.
„ iii. 14–17	
Heb. xii. 22, 23	Union with Christ the condition of communion with angels and saints.
1 John i.	Fellowship with God through Christ.

PSALMS—

ci.	I will sing of mercy and judgment.
cxxxiii.	Behold, how good and how pleasant.

FAMILY MAXIMS.—Let God be first—Never be idle—The power of littles—I will try—Attend to minor morals—Be happy and make happy—Never say, "We must do as others do."

The two bears—"Bear and Forbear."

79. Wavering, The.

Prov. i. 22, 31	The folly and danger of refusing the calls of mercy.
John v. 21–29	The consideration of a future judgment as an incentive to a religious life.
Acts xvi. 19–34	The jailer at Philippi.
Heb. iii. 7–15	A dissuasive from unbelief and procrastination.

"Half a leap is a fall into the ditch."

Faith in to-morrow instead of Christ is Satan's nurse for man's perdition.

"The road of by-and-by leads to the town of never."—(Spanish.)

"Almost saved is altogether lost."

80. Will, Before making a.

PSALMS—

xv.	Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle?
lxxxii.	God standeth in the congregation.
cxii.	Praise ye the Lord, blessed is the man that feareth the Lord.

SUITABLE COLLECT—St. Matt.

81. Woman in Childbed, For a.

Matt. xix. 13–15.	Little children brought to Christ.
Luke ii. 21–24	The purification of Mary and the presentation of Jesus in the temple.
John xvi. 20–22.	Sorrows of a woman in travail.
Rom. viii. 18–23	Nature's travail and expectation.
1 Tim. ii. 8–15	Comfort in the time of travail.
Tit. ii. 1–5	Charge to both aged and young women.
1 Pet. iii. 1–6	Mutual duties of husband and wife.

WHEN UNMARRIED—

Ps. li.	The duty of immediate amendment.
Luke vii. 36–50.	The penitent woman at the feet of Jesus.
John viii. 1–11	Mercy the prevailing feature of the gospel.

AFTER A MISCARRIAGE—

2 Sam. xii. 19–23	David's conduct at the death of his child.
John xiv. 1–14	Notes of comfort to the disconsolate.
Rev. xiv. 1–5	A description of the felicity of heaven.

PSALMS—

xiii.	How long wilt Thou forget me, O Lord?
xx.	The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble.
xxx.	I will extol Thee, O Lord.
xxxi.	In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.
lxvii.	God be merciful unto us.
lxx.	Make haste, O God, to deliver me.
cii.	Hear my prayer, O God.
cxvi. 1–12	I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice.
cxxi.	I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.
cxxx.	Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee.

AFTER A MISCARRIAGE—

lxxvii.	I cried unto God with my voice.
lxxxviii.	O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried.
xc.	Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place.

SUITABLE COLLECTS—

Septuag.
Easter Eve (*after a miscarriage*).

82. Worldly-mindedness.

Matt. xxiv. 36–51	Worldliness to mark the days preceding the second advent.
Luke xxi. 34–37.	Exhortation to watch and pray against worldliness.

Rom. viii. 5–10 .	The carnal mind enmity to God.
„ xii. 1, 2 .	Duty of entire consecration.
1 Cor. vii. 29–31	Use and abuse of the world.
Col. iii. 1–10 . .	Heavenly-mindedness.
Tit. ii. 11–14. .	The grace of God teaching us to deny worldly lusts.
James iv. 4 . .	The friendship of the world enmity with God.
1 John ii. 15–17.	Love of the world inconsistent with the love of the Father.

Grimaldi, a noted clown, consulted a physician to obtain a cure for his melancholy, and was advised to go and listen to his own performances. What mockery! "The heart knoweth its own bitterness." Disraeli tells of meeting a most miserable and squatty man who was then amusing all London with his witty verses. Thomas Hood, the witty comic poet, found the world only a gilded cheat. All who have chosen the world, and have had it, have been disappointed and disgusted with their portion.

A FEW UNCLASSIFIED THOUGHTS.

"The eagle, to try her young, is said to carry them up against the piercing beams of the sun, which, seeing them endure, she acknowledges them as her own. Christ knows us to be His by our constant suffering, and therefore sometimes brings us to the conflict."

"When the living mother sendeth forth her child to nurse, and the nurse hath kept it long enough, if the mother take her own child home again, hath the nurse any cause to grudge or complain?"

"That I may," saith St. Augustine, "after this languishing life see Christ in glory, and be partaker of so great a good, what though sickness weaken me, labours oppress me, watchings consume me, cold benumb me, heat inflame me; nay, though my whole life be spent in sighs and sorrows, what is all to the rest that shall ensue in the life to come? Why do we complain of want of rest, seeing we have undertaken a journey wearisome and troublesome?"

"The loving mother doth sometimes leave the child for a little space, whilst she goes aside, and then, seeing the infant moaning after her, she runneth, and is wont to make the more of it. When God seemeth to withdraw a little His help from us, it is only to see whether we will moan after Him; which, when He perceiveth we do, we are the more beloved and accepted of Him."

"God respects not so much after what manner we die, *as what manner* of death we die" (*St. Augustine*).

"O Lord, take from me, if Thou wilt, my goods, my riches, my pleasures, my life; only leave me my heart, which may never cease to love Thee, and call upon Thee" (*St. Anselm*).

"The tempest may rage, but stay awhile, and a calm will follow. The sun may be overcast for a time, the weather will be fair again: 'O taste and see.'"

"We see by experience that the longer we defer the curing of wounds, the harder is their recovery at last."

"We open our griefs and sores to the physician of the body; when we humble ourselves under the hand of God, we open our sins to the Physician of our souls, who can best apply the best medicine."

SENTENCES WHICH MAY BE REPEATED TO THE DYING.

Fear not: Jesus is with thee.

It is blessed to rest after toil and labour.

The valley is dark, but the light is shining over the everlasting hills [never to be dark again*].

Why should we fear to go to Paradise? Hath not Jesus gone before us? Will He not meet us there?

Our Master went not up to glory before He suffered. Let us gladly suffer with Him, and die with Him, if only we may live and reign with Him.

Why should I live here in banishment? Why should I take delight in the chains of my prison-house? I would flee away and be at rest.

—*Bp. of Bedford.*

* These words were actually spoken by a dying believer as this passage was read to him.

PRAYER FOR AN ORDINARY CASE OF SICKNESS.

O GOD, who art the God who giveth us hope, and suppliest to us consolation in all our necessities, and refreshest us when weary; look upon us, we beseech Thee, in mercy, and have compassion upon us in the hour of affliction, and give us grace to bear with childlike submission and perfect meekness Thy Fatherly chastening of us. And grant that the means used to relieve the sufferings of this afflicted child of Thine, and to restore *him* to health, may receive Thy blessing, and not be in vain. But, O God, whatever be the length of time or the severity of *his* illness, do Thou comfort and support *him* by Thy continual presence, strengthen *him* by Thy grace, and enable *him* to endure with cheerfulness and patience unto the end. Hear our cry, not for our worthiness, but for the worthiness of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour. *Amen.*

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